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Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Abyei

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 17 of Security Council resolution 2075 (2012), in which the Council requested that I continue to inform it of progress in the implementation of the mandate of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA), and to bring to its attention any serious violation of the 20 June 2011 Agreement between the Government of the Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement on Temporary Arrangements for the Administration and Security of the Abyei Area (S/2011/384, annex). The report provides an update on the situation in Abyei and on the deployment and operations of UNISFA since my previous report, of 28 March 2013 (S/2013/198). It also provides an update on progress made in the implementation of the additional tasks mandated to UNISFA under Security Council resolution 2024 (2011) related to the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism.

II. Security situation

2. During the period under review, although the security situation in the Abyei Area remained generally stable, there were a number of incidents. The Sudan oil police force, consisting of between 120 and 150 personnel, remained deployed inside the Diffra oil complex, in violation of the 20 June 2011 Agreement and Security Council resolutions 1990 (2011), 2032 (2011), 2046 (2012), 2047 (2012) and 2075 (2012). The frequency of their movements outside the oil complex, however, decreased. On 8 April, eight members of the oil police were involved in a minor altercation with a few shopkeepers in Diffra.

3. Six to eight members of the "Tora Bora" rebel militia group, which entered the Abyei Area in November 2012, remained present in the vicinity of Um Khariet in eastern Abyei. On 30 March, UNISFA requested the group to desist from carrying weapons and wearing uniforms in the Abyei Area or to leave altogether. The group has thus far complied with the mission's request.

4. There were a number of isolated incursions into the Abyei Area, in violation of the 20 June 2011 Agreement, during the reporting period. UNISFA observed 10 members of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) on 16 March and 6 on 17 March in the vicinity of Anthony. The troops claimed to be on their way to a military camp in Aung Thau (Warrap State, South Sudan) from Rum Koor (Warrap

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State) through the Abyei Area and that this was currently the only possible route between the two locations. On 22 March, 35 armed members of SPLA were observed near Atay and left the Abyei Area before UNISFA could establish contact with them. The mission is engaging with the Government of South Sudan on this matter in order to prevent further incursions. On 18 April, heavily armed members of the South Sudan Liberation Army rebel militia group entered the Abyei Area in a convoy of approximately 90 vehicles. The group entered the north-eastern boundary of the Abyei Area and was observed in the vicinity of Domboloya. Following the mission's engagement, the group, which had stated an intention to settle there, immediately left the Abyei Area.

5. The number of Ngok Dinka returnees to areas north of the Kiir/Bahr el-Arab River reached approximately 21,600 and approximately 5,500 in Abyei town. Most of the Ngok Dinka displaced persons returned to locations near Abyei town, some proceeding to villages in northern Abyei. On 13 April, approximately 53 returnees moved from Abyei town to Makir. Furthermore, Ngok Dinka returnees continued with the reconstruction of their homes in several locations of return including Anthony, Akhengial, Noong and Tajalei. The migration of Misseriya nomads southwards through the Abyei Area continued during the reporting period. Currently around 100,000 Misseriya nomads, along with approximately 1.6 million livestock, are present in Abyei.

6. Unfortunately, a number of suspected intercommunal murders were committed during the period under review. On 24 March, UNISFA discovered the body of a murdered Misseriya herder in the vicinity of Makir. The Misseriya in the area claimed that Ngok Dinka individuals murdered the man and stole 215 cattle. UNISFA succeeded in locating and returning the cattle on 27 March. However, the perpetrators of the crime have yet to be apprehended. Immediately following the incident, on 25 March, approximately 30 Misseriya on motorcycles with AK-47s and rocket-propelled grenades assembled near Makir demanding that the Ngok Dinka vacate the area. Although UNISFA managed to contain the situation, some Ngok Dinka left Makir for Abyei town and Noong. On 15 April, a Ngok Dinka civilian was shot dead in Nyinchor village, near Abyei town. UNISFA is investigating the incident. On 20 April, another Ngok Dinka civilian was shot dead in the village of Mulmul, near Abyei town. On the next day, UNISFA apprehended eight Misseriya men suspected of committing the crime, interviewed them about the incident and handed them over to Misseriya community leaders in Um Khariet. On 23 April, two Ngok Dinka were murdered in Tajalei. UNISFA is investigating the incident.

7. On 4 May, following the conclusion of a meeting of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee in Abyei town, a 16-member delegation, composed of representatives of the Committee, the Government of South Sudan, civil society and the Ngok Dinka community, requested UNISFA to visit Tajalei, Noong and Makir. The delegation included the Ngok Dinka Paramount Chief, Mr. Deng Kuol Deng, and the Government of South Sudan Deputy Co-Chair, Mr. Deng Mading Mijak. While on its way back from lunch at the UNISFA battalion headquarters in Diffra to Abyei town, the convoy was stopped by a group of armed Misseriya in Baloom. The armed group refused to allow the convoy to proceed, citing their displeasure regarding the presence of the Ngok Dinka delegation in the area and demanding that they be handed over to them. UNISFA rejected this demand. As the number of armed Misseriya progressively increased to approximately 200 men, the convoy was reinforced with UNISFA armoured personnel carriers and tanks.

8. Following discussions with the UNISFA Head of Mission and Force Commander, Major General Yohannes Tesfamariam, which lasted more than three hours, the armed group allowed the convoy to leave to travel back to Diffra to continue discussions with some of its representatives. As the convoy was turning around towards Diffra, a Misseriya youth opened fire on the United Nations vehicle and killed the Ngok Dinka Paramount Chief and a UNISFA peacekeeper. The Misseriya assailant was killed and three UNISFA peacekeepers were injured in the exchange of fire which followed. The number of Misseriya casualties has not been confirmed.

9. On the morning of 5 May, a group of more than 250 Ngok Dinka youth arrived in Abyei town from Agok in a convoy of six trucks and vans and began causing unrest. Despite the efforts of UNISFA troops and Ngok Dinka civil society representatives to calm the situation, the youths burned down the market. Later that evening, another group of Ngok Dinka youth assembled and destroyed most of the Abyei town mosque. No casualties were reported in these incidents and the Misseriya traders had reportedly fled Abyei town the night before. On 6 May 2013, the funeral of the Ngok Dinka Paramount Chief was attended by between 4,000 and 5,000 people in Abyei town. The ceremony, which was attended by the UNISFA Head of Mission and Force Commander and Government of South Sudan officials, including the Minister for Cabinet Affairs, Mr. Deng Alor, and the Chief Negotiator with the Sudan, Mr. Pagan Amum, took place in a peaceful atmosphere.

10. A number of other security incidents occurred during the reporting period, including cattle-raiding. On 3 April, armed Misseriya nomads reportedly stole 166 Ngok Dinka cattle near Colognial village, south of Abyei town. Despite conducting an intensive search operation, UNISFA has thus far not been able to locate the cattle. On 4 April, UNISFA prevented three armed Misseriya from abducting a group of five Ngok Dinka youths in Dokura, central Abyei. On 10 April, UNISFA took two armed Misseriya into protective custody in Nyinchor following attempted attacks on them by the Ngok Dinka community. The mission confiscated their weapons and handed them over to Misseriya leaders in Diffra. On the same day, UNISFA detained seven armed Misseriya in the village of Duop in central Abyei and released them after having confiscated their weapons.

11. On 12 April, Misseriya nomads informed UNISFA that more than 300 of their livestock had been stolen, allegedly by armed Ngok Dinka in Dokura. UNISFA recovered the stolen livestock on the same day from two Ngok Dinka. The mission handed the two individuals to Ngok Dinka community leaders. On 22 April, a Misseriya nomad reported the theft of 1,000 of his cattle in the vicinity of Noong. UNISFA is investigating the incident. On 26 April, UNISFA encountered a group of 50 armed Misseriya in the vicinity of Kulshewa in south-eastern Abyei. The group, who claimed to be searching for stolen cattle, was handed over to Misseriya leaders in Shegeg. On the same day, armed Misseriya abducted a Ngok Dinka boy in the Atay area. UNISFA successfully located him and returned him to his family.

12. Commercial activities in the Abyei town market continued during the period under review. UNISFA troops and police advisers maintained a continuous presence in the area in order to address intercommunal security and petty crime concerns. On 26 March, a Misseriya trader stabbed a Ngok Dinka youth after a drunken altercation, resulting in the Ngok Dinka youth sustaining minor injuries. UNISFA contained the situation and the trader was relocated out of the area. On 22 April, a

group of Ngok Dinka assaulted a Misseriya trader in the Abyei town market. The victim was treated for minor injuries.

13. During the reporting period, the United Nations Mine Action Service and its contractor focused on the clearance of areas of Ngok Dinka return and Misseriya migration routes. The teams removed 604 items of explosive remnants of war and over 500 kg of small arms ammunition, completed general mine action assessments in more than 67 villages and declared 1,824 m^2 of land as cleared. On 20 April, a landmine explosion resulted in the death of three and injuries to five Ngok Dinka civilians who were travelling in a minibus from Agok towards Karioch. The investigation by the Mine Action Service revealed that the landmine was inadvertently dumped, along with soil and earth that had been excavated and brought from another location to an area where road construction activity was ongoing. The Mine Action Service carried out demining of the area, but found no evidence of any more landmines.

III. Political developments

14. Very little progress was made on the implementation of the 20 June 2011 Agreement during the reporting period. The Sudan and South Sudan have not resolved the dispute over the composition of the Abyei Area Council which has, in effect, prevented the establishment of the other temporary institutions, namely the Abyei Area Administration and the Abyei Police Service. Furthermore, no progress was made on the resolution of the final status of the Abyei Area.

15. On 27 March 2013, the Sudan Co-Chair of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee informed UNISFA that the Government of the Sudan had finalized a draft framework for the Abyei Police Service based on the draft concept note on the Abyei Police Service that UNISFA presented to the parties in February 2013. Similarly, South Sudan has formulated its concept for the Abyei Police Service. The issue of the formation of an Abyei Police Service will be discussed during the future meeting of the Committee.

16. On 12 April 2013, further to the decision of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee in January to refer the issue to the respective presidents, discussions on the implementation of the 20 June 2011 Agreement continued between President Omar al-Bashir and President Salva Kiir during their summit meeting in Juba. Although the two Presidents did not make any substantial progress in resolving the dispute over the composition of the Abyei Area Council, they did agree to continue their efforts to resolve the Abyei issue in accordance with the implementation matrix of 12 March. The Presidents agreed to hold the next summit in Khartoum.

17. The Abyei Joint Oversight Committee held one meeting during the reporting period. On 18 March, President Kiir appointed Edward Lino as the South Sudan Co-Chair of the Committee following the departure of Mr. Luka Biong Deng. In the light of the recent intercommunal security incidents, on 24 April, UNISFA wrote to the Sudan and South Sudan Co-Chairs inviting the parties to an extraordinary meeting of the Committee. The parties agreed and met in Abyei town on 2 and 3 May. The parties discussed the deteriorating security situation and the prevalence of arms among the local communities in the Abyei Area. The Committee decided to ensure that the Abyei Area would be made a "weapons-free area" in accordance with the 20 June 2011 Agreement, that all perpetrators of criminal acts would be brought

to justice, by traditional or by formal means, and that the Committee would maintain oversight over all such decisions of the traditional leadership. The Committee also agreed that its Co-Chairs should immediately engage their community leaders through a conference within two weeks in order to promote reconciliation and assist in addressing their security and socioeconomic needs. Perhaps most significantly, the Committee urged the two Governments to expedite the process of the formation of the Abyei Police Service.

18. Following the attack on the UNISFA convoy and the killing of the Ngok Dinka Paramount Chief and UNISFA peacekeeper on 4 May, the Governments of both the Sudan and South Sudan issued statements in an effort to defuse tensions. On 5 May, the Government of the Sudan expressed its deep regret, condemned the killing and extended its deep condolences to the family of the late Paramount Chief, the Ngok Dinka community, the Government and people of Ethiopia, and the Misseriya community. It also announced that an urgent, transparent, thorough and fair investigation will be carried out and that those responsible for the incident will be held accountable. On the same day, in a press statement, the Government of South Sudan strongly condemned the incident and offered its condolences to the people of Abyei, UNISFA and the Government of Ethiopia. It also requested UNISFA to search for the perpetrators of the crime and ensure that they are brought to justice, as well as for the United Nations and the African Union to immediately investigate the incident.

19. On 5 April, further to reports of a planned student visit from Khartoum to the Abyei Area, the South Sudan Co-Chair of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee submitted a letter of protest to the Sudan Co-Chair and UNISFA, stating that the Government of South Sudan was never consulted on this matter and that it should be postponed in order to avoid any security incidents. On 6 April, after a protest in front of UNISFA headquarters in Abyei town, a group of approximately 50 Ngok Dinka presented the mission leadership with a petition objecting to any "illegal convoys" to the Abyei Area. On 7 April, a group of seven students from Khartoum visited Diffra, but did not proceed to Abyei town following consultations with UNISFA.

IV. Status of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism

20. In contrast to the implementation of the 20 June 2011 Agreement, the Sudan and South Sudan made substantial progress on the implementation of their security agreements, namely the Agreement on Border Security and the Joint Political and Security Mechanism of 29 June 2011, the Agreement on the Border Monitoring Support Mission of 30 July 2011, the Agreement on Security Arrangements of 27 September 2012 and the security matrix of 8 March 2013.

21. During the period under review, the Joint Political and Security Mechanism held two extraordinary meetings in Addis Ababa, on 19 March and on 22 and 23 April. During both meetings, UNISFA provided briefings on the status of the operationalization of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism and the withdrawal of the parties' forces from the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone. During the latter meeting, the Joint Political and Security Mechanism endorsed the call of the UNISFA Head of Mission and Force Commander for the parties to

control police forces and communities on their side of the Border Zone in order to avoid any security incidents.

22. With respect to the operationalization of the Border Mechanism, immediately following the signing of the security matrix on 8 March, UNISFA began the transfer of the headquarters from Assosa, Ethiopia, to Kadugli (Southern Kordofan, Sudan). This was followed by the swift deployment of monitors from the Sudan and South Sudan. Currently, there are 32 monitors from UNISFA, 33 from the Sudan and 35 from South Sudan deployed at the Border Mechanism headquarters. On 26 March, with the signing of a memorandum of understanding, the Government of South Sudan provided UNISFA with the requisite land for the Border Mechanism sector headquarters in Gok Machar (Northern Bahr el-Ghazal, South Sudan). On 17 April, a Border Mechanism advance party consisting of five UNISFA and two South Sudan monitors arrived in Gok Machar.

23. The Sudan and South Sudan also made progress in the operationalization of the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone. As provided in the security matrix of 8 March 2013, the parties committed themselves to withdraw their forces to their side of the Border Zone centreline by 17 March, except in the 14-mile area where this process was to be completed by 24 March. They further committed themselves to completely withdrawing their forces from the Border Zone by 5 April.

24. On 13 March, the Government of South Sudan presented the Border Mechanism with a plan for the withdrawal of its forces, which included details on the withdrawal from 10 locations within the Border Zone. From 23 to 26 March, joint Border Mechanism teams, including UNISFA, the Sudan and South Sudan monitors, verified that there was no military presence in four of those locations: Kiir Adem, Tishwin, Wonthou and Sira Malaga. On 27 March, the Government of the Sudan presented the Border Mechanism with its list of 13 withdrawal locations within the Border Zone. From 1 to 3 April, the Border Mechanism conducted the aerial verification of four locations of withdrawal of the Sudan Armed Forces provided by the Sudan: Al-Falah, Al-Radoum, Al-Kwek and Kilo 4. No armed forces were observed during those verifications either. On 29 and 30 March, the Border Mechanism conducted aerial verification missions within the Border Zone, south of Heglig, and did not observe any military presence. On 26 March and 11 April, the Governments of South Sudan and the Sudan, respectively, confirmed to UNISFA the withdrawal of their forces from the Border Zone.

25. Despite this progress, however, the parties continued to accuse each other of maintaining an armed presence inside the Border Zone. Following the expiration of the deadline of 5 April for withdrawal of forces from the Border Zone, on 22 April UNISFA informed the Joint Political and Security Mechanism that no definitive findings regarding the compliance of the parties with that deadline could be made until the Border Mechanism is able to conduct ground verifications within the Border Zone. Currently, the Border Mechanism is unable to conduct ground verifications without a force protection unit. On 21 April, the Border Mechanism conducted an aerial verification of the following locations in the 14-mile area: Samaha, Milkmair, Rahdangate and Bahr-Arab. The Border Mechanism did not observe a military presence, except in Al-Gharif where monitors observed an undetermined number of troops and three pick-up trucks located near a military camp.

26. During the meeting of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism on 22 and 23 April, the parties agreed that the Ad Hoc Committee would convene its first

meeting within seven days under the auspices of UNISFA. According to the terms of reference agreed upon by the parties, the Ad Hoc Committee will be composed of two members each from UNISFA, the Sudan, and South Sudan, and will be tasked by the Mechanism to investigate security-related complaints within 50 km of the Border Zone centreline, excluding the Border Zone itself. On 19 March, the Sudan and South Sudan provided UNISFA with the names of their nominees for the Committee. On 13 and 14 April, the two members of the Ad Hoc Committee from the Sudan conducted a familiarization visit to the Border Mechanism headquarters in Kadugli. UNISFA further invited the Ad Hoc Committee members of both countries to Kadugli by 3 May to finalize the Committee's terms of reference and operating procedures. However, neither country has yet responded.

27. The Joint Political and Security Mechanism also endorsed the recommendation of the Joint Technical Border Coordination Committee for the immediate opening of the following eight border crossings, to facilitate trade and movement between the countries: from Kosti (White Nile State, Sudan) to Renk (Upper Nile State, South Sudan); from Heglig (Southern Kordofan, Sudan) to Bentiu (Unity State, South Sudan); from El-Mughlad (Southern Kordofan, Sudan) to Aweil (Northern Bahr el-Ghazal, South Sudan) via Meiram (Southern Kordofan, Sudan); from Babanusa (Southern Kordofan, Sudan) to Aweil; from El-Radoum el-Buram (Southern Darfur, Sudan) to Raja (Western Bahr el-Ghazal, South Sudan) via Tumsaha; from Kosti to Kaka (Upper Nile State, South Sudan) via El-Megenes; and from Ed Damazine (Blue Nile State, Sudan) to Renk, via Buut and Babnis. The remaining two corridors, from El-Mughlad to Toralei (Warrap State, South Sudan) via the Abyei Area, and from Tolodi (Southern Kordofan, Sudan) to Tonja (Upper Nile State, South Sudan) would be opened later, during the second phase.

28. Finally, the Joint Political and Security Mechanism also adopted the terms of reference of the Joint Security Committee, a new mechanism which will be tasked with overseeing the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding on Non-Aggression and Cooperation which was signed by the parties on 10 February 2012. The next meeting of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism was scheduled to be held in Juba on 22 May 2013.

V. Humanitarian situation

29. Although needs-based assistance continued to be provided to the communities in the Abyei Area, the number of humanitarian personnel and level of assistance remain inadequate for the entire Abyei Area. While the overall health situation in the Abyei Area is stable, health services north of Abyei town remain inadequate, thus adversely affecting the humanitarian community's capacity for disease surveillance in the region.

30. The World Food Programme provided food assistance to more than 78,000 people in the Abyei Area during the reporting period. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) continued its efforts to mitigate the effects of water scarcity and lack of basic facilities by completing a number of projects in the Abyei Area. It renovated two health clinics and five water points in central Abyei, four schools, three health clinics and seven water points in central and southern Abyei, and assisted 146 households with emergency shelter assistance. In addition, IOM and the United Nations Development Programme renovated two schools in northern Abyei.

31. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) assisted over 200 returnees with non-food items and provision of emergency shelter implements. United Nations agencies conducted a number of inter-agency assessments to communities in northern Abyei. Water, health care and education were priority needs and efforts to meet these requirements are ongoing.

VI. Protection of civilians

32. Pending the establishment of the Abyei Area temporary institutions, UNISFA continued to implement its multifaceted conflict prevention and mitigation strategy, which consists of monitoring and early warning assessments, conducting day-and-night patrols, and promoting intercommunal dialogue between the Ngok Dinka and Misseriya communities and interaction with Government officials in the Sudan and South Sudan. However, the vacuum resulting from a lack of any administrative or law and order institutions continues to create a serious burden for UNISFA.

33. The mission continued engaging with the communities, primarily through the use of the joint security committees, in order to ensure a peaceful migration process. As described above, despite the fact that the situation remained generally stable during the reporting period, UNISFA received a number of reports of intercommunal murders and cattle-raiding. Furthermore, intercommunal tensions remained high due to the limited access to water and grazing land for the Misseriya nomads and the decision of most of the Ngok Dinka community to continue to withhold such access. In addition, on an increasing number of occasions, UNISFA had to physically prevent the entry of nomads and their cattle into areas populated by Ngok Dinka.

34. UNISFA continued to promote intercommunal dialogue as a means of preventing violence. The mission facilitated intercommunal meetings at the local level and mediated the resolution of a number of problems between the communities. For example, on 25 March, following the lack of access for Misseriya in the area, UNISFA successfully mediated an agreement on water-sharing between the Misseriya elders of the Mezagna clan and the Ngok Dinka chiefs in Tajalei and Todach. Despite the strenuous efforts of UNISFA to discourage the open carrying of arms by persons within the Abyei Area, the prevalence of small arms among both the communities continues to be a serious security concern.

35. Cases of extortion increased in various areas along the roads in the Abyei Area. UNISFA continued its efforts to minimize this menace, by engaging with the communities and intensifying patrols in the affected areas.

36. There have been no new developments with regard to the operationalization of human rights monitoring in the Abyei Area, as provided under paragraph 14 of resolution 2075 (2012), during the period under review.

VII. Deployment of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei

37. As at 13 April 2013, the military component of UNISFA comprised 3,973 of its authorized troop strength of 4,200. The remaining 227 troops will be deployed within the air aviation unit, as military observers, staff officers and as part of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (see annex I). The available

head room from the aviation unit will be used for a temporary surge to enhance field engineering capabilities.

38. The UNISFA military component continued to be deployed in three sectors (see annex II). The UNISFA deployment scheme ensures that it is able to implement its conflict prevention and mitigation strategy and to provide a deterrent effect against any armed incursion into the Abyei Area.

39. During the reporting period, there has been no change in the number of deployed United Nations police personnel on the ground. As at 30 April 2013, it remained 11 personnel, including one Acting Senior Police Adviser. The police personnel assisted the UNISFA military component in maintaining law and order. The visa request for the new Senior Police Adviser (Ghana) was approved in April and his deployment is expected in the near future.

VIII. Mission support

40. UNISFA continued its efforts to provide accommodation, road access and ration supplies for its troops during the reporting period. Following the completion of the new extension of hard-walled office accommodation at mission headquarters, 151 additional hard-walled prefabricated buildings have been erected at several troop deployment locations within the Abyei Area, including company operating bases and temporary operating bases and staff accommodation. Nevertheless, critical infrastructure problems remain, such as poor road and air connectivity and a lack of warehousing facilities. UNISFA continues to be dependent on other missions in the region for several logistics and procurement requirements, which impedes operational efficiency.

41. The mission continued preparations to upgrade road accessibility to company operating bases in preparation for the annual wet season, despite some delay due to the late delivery of laterite by the vendors. UNISFA also ensured full road access to dry season company operating bases and temporary operating bases.

42. In April 2013, a total of 237 visas were granted to UNISFA staff, including 36 international civilian staff, 26 military officers, 32 international contractor staff, and 136 mine action contractors and seven visas for Mine Action Service staff members.

43. The logistical preparations for the operationalization of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism continued during the reporting period. Following the provision of land by the authorities in South Sudan, preparations for the establishment of the sector headquarters in Gok Machar (Northern Bahr el-Ghazal, South Sudan) are in place, including the initial construction activity and the prepositioning of a Border Mechanism advance team, essential local staff, logistics staff and equipment. Voice and data communication have also been set up, and a United Nations Mine Action Service team began clearing routes and sites to enable the Border Mechanism to immediately conduct ground monitoring as soon as protection forces are available. For the full operating capability, a reconnaissance mission to Buram (Southern Darfur, Sudan), has yet to be carried out, for lack of security clearance from the Government of the Sudan. A reconnaissance mission to Malakal (Upper Nile State, South Sudan) is now being planned in May 2013 to identify land following advice from the United Nations Mission in South Sudan that

it was not feasible to allocate land to UNISFA within its team site. Meanwhile, UNISFA is carrying out a rapid drawdown of staff in the former temporary headquarters in Assosa, Ethiopia. Only four international staff members remain there in order to liquidate the headquarters by 31 May 2013.

IX. Financial implications

44. The General Assembly, by its resolution 66/241 B of 21 June 2012, appropriated the amount of $257.9 million for the maintenance of the Force for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013. Should the Security Council decide to extend the mandate of UNISFA beyond 31 May 2013, the cost of maintaining the Force would be limited to the amount approved by the General Assembly for the 2012-13 financial period. As at 6 May 2013, unpaid assessed contributions to the Special Account for UNISFA amounted to $49.4 million. Total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations at that date amounted to $1,405.7 million. Reimbursement to the contributing Government for troop and contingent-owned equipment costs has been made for the periods up to 31 December 2012 and 30 September 2012, respectively, in accordance with the quarterly payment schedule.

X. Observations and recommendations

45. The simultaneous Misseriya migration and return of Ngok Dinka displaced persons has resulted in a significant population influx into the Abyei Area. The two communities remain armed, hostile and highly distrustful of each other. As a result, the security situation in the Abyei Area has deteriorated during the reporting period, culminating in the killing of the Ngok Dinka Paramount Chief and unrest in Abyei town. I reiterate my strong condemnation of that attack and express my deepest condolences to the Ngok Dinka community, the Government of Ethiopia and the families of the dead and injured. I strongly urge the leadership of the two communities, in accordance with the decisions taken during the last meeting of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee, to ensure that their community members do not to carry weapons inside the Abyei Area and to assume a proactive role in establishing an intercommunal dialogue, which would serve to decrease tensions.

46. The continued presence of the Sudan oil police in Diffra and the "Tora Bora" rebel militia group remains a matter of concern. Their presence constitutes a violation of the 20 June 2011 Agreement and Security Council resolution 2046 (2012). I urge the authorities of both the Sudan and South Sudan to take immediate measures to ensure their complete withdrawal and to prevent the entry of any unauthorized armed elements into the Abyei Area.

47. The persistent differences over the composition of the Abyei Area Council and resulting blockage over the establishment of the Abyei Area temporary institutions continue to undermine efforts to stabilize the security and humanitarian situation. This situation will not improve as long as the governance vacuum persists. The Abyei Area temporary institutions are critical for the facilitation of the return and resettlement of Ngok Dinka displaced persons, the migration of Misseriya nomads and the humanitarian and social needs of both communities. Furthermore, the establishment of the Abyei Police Service is the only means of ensuring the sustainable maintenance of law and order in the Abyei Area.

48. I commend both Governments for their positive and constructive cooperation with UNISFA on the timely operationalization of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism. I urge them to continue to implement their security agreements with the same level of commitment to ensure the complete redeployment of their respective forces from the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone and the full operationalization of the Border Mechanism. The full implementation of these agreements is necessary to establish full security along their common border. Similarly, I encourage both Governments to continue to work on implementing the provisions of resolution 2046 (2012) and to do so through dialogue and mutually acceptable solutions.

49. The presence of armed groups inside the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone remains a considerable security concern for the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism. I would therefore request the Council to accept my recommendation to grant the increase in the authorized strength of the UNISFA military component by 1,126 personnel, as detailed in my report of 28 March 2013 (S/2013/198).

50. Finally, I extend gratitude to my Special Envoy, Haile Menkerios, and to the African Union High-level Implementation Panel, led by President Thabo Mbeki, for their sustained efforts to assist the parties in resolving their post-secession issues. I am also thankful to the UNISFA Head of Mission, Major General Yohannes Tesfamariam, and his staff for their continued efforts to enhance peace and stability in the Abyei Area and to support the parties in the implementation of their security agreements.

Annex I

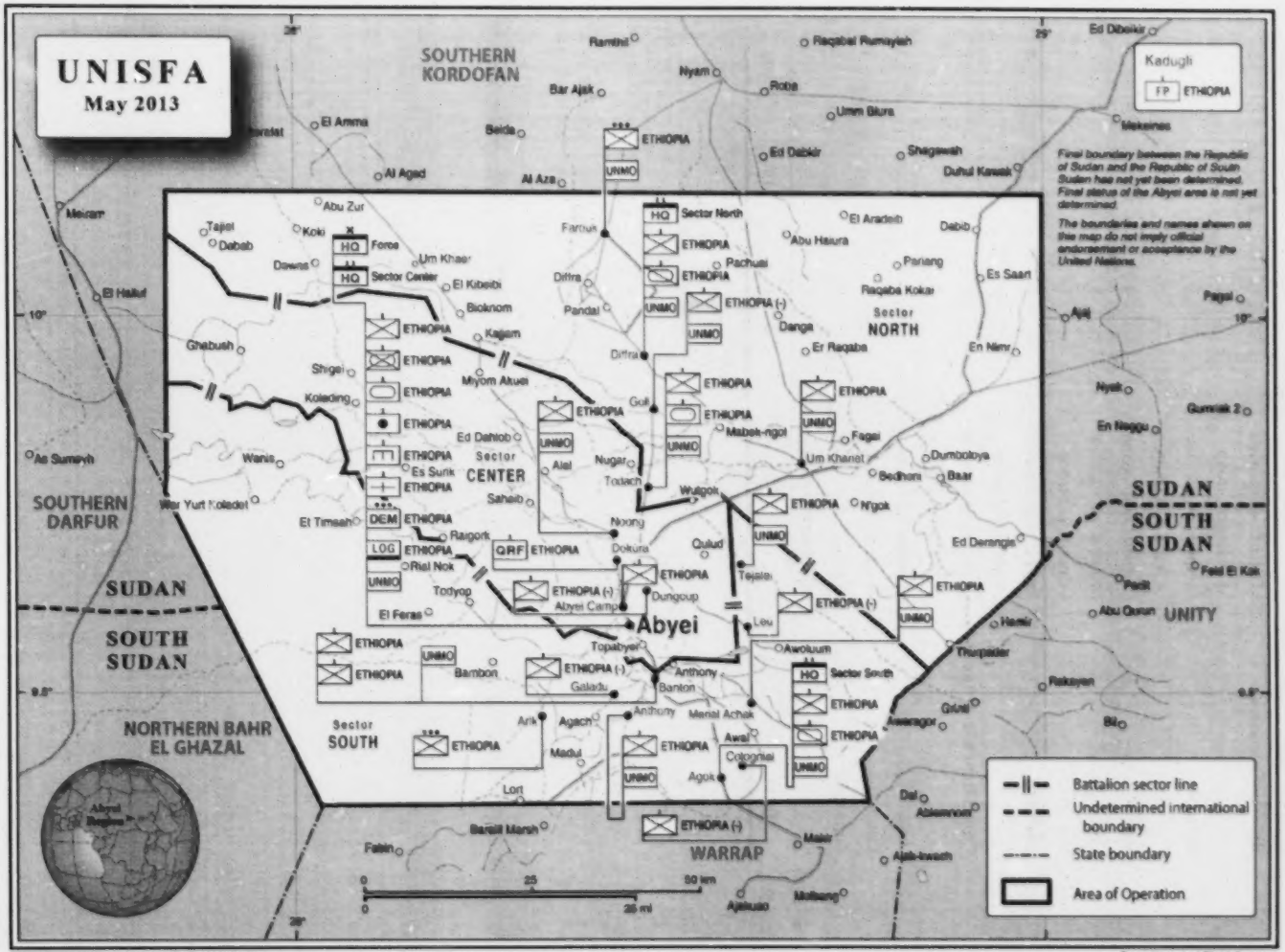
Composition of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei military component (including the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism)

Country	*Description*	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Benin	Experts on mission	3		4
	Contingent troop	1		
Bolivia	Experts on mission	3		4
	Contingent troop	1		
Brazil	Experts on mission	1		3
	Contingent troop	2		
Burundi	Experts on mission	1		1
Cambodia	Experts on mission	1		1
Ecuador	Experts on mission	1		1
El Salvador	Experts on mission	1		1
Ethiopia	Experts on mission	77	10	3 893
	Contingent troop	3 597	209	
Ghana	Experts on mission	3		5
	Contingent troop	2		
Guatemala	Experts on mission	2		3
	Contingent troop	1		
Guinea	Experts on mission	2		2
India	Experts on mission	2		4
	Contingent troop	2		
Indonesia	Experts on mission	1		2
	Contingent troop	1		
Kyrgyzstan	Experts on mission	1		1
Malaysia	Experts on mission	1		1
Mongolia	Experts on mission	2		2
Mozambique	Experts on mission	1		1
Namibia	Experts on mission	1		1
Nepal	Experts on mission	2		4
	Contingent troop	2		
Nigeria	Experts on mission	3		5
	Contingent troop	2		
Paraguay	Experts on mission	1		1
Peru	Experts on mission	2		3
	Contingent troop	1		
Philippines	Experts on mission	1		3
	Contingent troop	2		

Country	*Description*	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Russian Federation	Experts on mission	1		3
	Contingent troop	2		
Rwanda	Experts on mission	2		4
	Contingent troop	2		
Sierra Leone	Experts on mission	3		3
Sri Lanka	Experts on mission	5		6
	Contingent troop	1		
Ukraine	Experts on mission	2		4
	Contingent troop	2		
United Republic of Tanzania	Experts on mission	1		2
	Contingent troop	1		
Uruguay	Contingent troop	1		1
Zambia	Experts on mission	1		1
Zimbabwe	Experts on mission	2		3
	Contingent troop	1		
Total		**3 754**	**219**	**3 973**

Annex II

Deployment of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei



Map No. 4467 Rev. 13 UNITED NATIONS
May 2013 (Colour)

Department of Field Support
Cartographic Section

United Nations S/2013/295

Security Council

Distr.: General
17 May 2013
English
Original: French

Letter dated 15 May 2013 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I should like to draw your attention to Security Council resolution 899 (1994) concerning the matter of the Iraqi private citizens and their assets which remained on Kuwaiti territory following the demarcation of the international boundary between Iraq and Kuwait. The Security Council decided therein that the compensation payments to be made pursuant to the arrangements described in the Secretary-General's letter of 22 February 1994 (S/1994/240) may be remitted to the private citizens concerned in Iraq, notwithstanding the provisions of resolution 661 (1990).

The Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat has been responsible for dealing with the issue of compensation. In accordance with the course of action outlined in the above-mentioned letter from the Secretary-General, Kuwait contributed to the trust fund created for the purpose of compensation, the Trust Fund for Iraq-Kuwait border issues. A notice to the Iraqi farmers concerned was prepared; a representative of the Department visited the border area between Iraq and Kuwait with a view to informing the Iraqi individuals concerned of the compensation and what needed to be done to claim it. The text of the notice was published in Kuwaiti newspapers. While most of the farmers were personally informed of the compensation amounts, none felt in a position to apply for the compensation at the time.

The Department continued to pursue the matter, but did not receive from the Iraqi authorities at the time the cooperation necessary to effect the payment. A visit to Iraq by a representative of the Department in order to proceed with the handover of compensation payments to the beneficiaries was postponed in early June 1995 at the request of the Government of Iraq, which did not suggest an alternative date. Attempts by the Department to make practical arrangements for disbursement of the compensation were not successful until after the fall of the Government of Saddam Hussein.

On 30 June 2005, the Department informed the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations that the Organization intended to proceed with the disbursement of compensation. Detailed modalities for the identification of and payment to the individual beneficiaries were forwarded to the Permanent Mission of Iraq. On 2 February 2007, the Government of Iraq was requested to inform the United Nations as to how it intended to proceed with regard to these arrangements.

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On 28 March 2007, the Permanent Mission of Iraq informed the Secretariat that the Council of Ministers of Iraq had decided to establish a team from the relevant ministries, headed by a representative of the Council of Ministers, to distribute the compensation determined by the United Nations Compensation Fund to the Iraqi farmers concerned. In notes verbales dated 4 February and 26 March 2008, the Permanent Mission of Iraq requested, on behalf of the Committee on the distribution of compensation to Iraqi farmers, that the total amount of compensation and the interest should be deposited in the account of the Development Fund for Iraq at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. There were subsequent exchanges between the Department and the Permanent Mission of Iraq on the modalities of such a transfer.

On 30 April 2008, the Department informed the Government of Kuwait of the Iraqi request outlined above. After an exchange of correspondence with the Department, the Permanent Mission of Kuwait to the United Nations noted, in its letter dated 18 February 2009, that Kuwait had fulfilled all of its commitments relating to the issue of compensation of the Iraqi farmers and that the subject "now remains between the United Nations and Iraq". The letter outlined no conditions or specific demands.

On 29 November 2012, the Permanent Mission of Iraq informed the Department that the Government of Iraq would update the final list of beneficiaries. On 2 May 2013, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq wrote to me (see annex) to request the transfer of the funds to the Ministry's account number 2 in United States dollars at the Rasheed Bank.

Given the Iraqi requests to transfer funds and the fact that no objections were raised by the State of Kuwait, and taking into account the provisions of paragraph 10 of Security Council resolution 1483 (2003), I intend to conclude an agreement with the Government of Iraq whereby the United Nations will transfer the funds contained in the Trust Fund, less applicable administrative costs, to the Government of Iraq, which will assume full responsibility for identifying the beneficiaries, determining the amount of compensation to be paid to each beneficiary and disbursing the corresponding amounts. The agreement will also provide for the Government of Iraq to inform me on a regular basis of the progress achieved in identifying and making payment to the beneficiaries and on completion of the process.

As at 31 March 2013, the balance of the Trust Fund was $1,438,718. Should the Council agree with the course of action outlined above, my responsibilities under Security Council resolution 899 (1994) will have been discharged upon transfer of the funds to the Government of Iraq. The Governments of Iraq and Kuwait have been consulted on and agree with the course of action outlined above.

I should be grateful if you would bring this letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

Annex

[Original: Arabic]

Allow me to express my appreciation for your efforts to settle the issues pending between the Republic of Iraq and the State of Kuwait. We are now finalizing the lists of Iraqi farmers whose land was affected by the demarcation of the borders between the two countries entitled to compensation. I should therefore be grateful if you could instruct that the amount designated for that purpose should be transferred to the Ministry's account at Rasheed Bank, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Branch, missions account No. 2 (United States dollars).

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(*Signed*) Hoshyar **Zebari**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq

United Nations S/2013/296

Security Council

Distr.: General
17 May 2013

Original: English

Letter dated 17 May 2013 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to respond to your letter of 15 May 2013 (S/2013/295), in which you referred to Security Council resolution 899 (1994), concerning the matter of the Iraqi private citizens and their assets that remained on Kuwaiti territory following the demarcation of the international boundary between Iraq and Kuwait.

In this connection, I wish to inform you that the Security Council has decided to approve the proposal contained in your letter.

(*Signed*) Kodjo **Menan**
President of the Security Council

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United Nations S/2013/297

Security Council

Distr.: General
20 May 2013

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa and on the Lord's Resistance Army-affected areas

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to the request contained in the statement of the President of the Security Council dated 19 December 2012 (S/PRST/2012/28), in which the Security Council requested me to keep it informed on the activities of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) and the progress in the implementation of the United Nations regional strategy to address the threat and impact of the activities of the Lord's Resistance Army (S/2012/481). The report assesses the major political trends in the Central African subregion since my last report (S/2012/923), dated 13 December 2012, provides an update on progress in implementing the mandate of UNOCA, and reports on ongoing efforts to counter the threat and impact of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).

II. Major developments in the Central African subregion

A. Political, peace and security developments

2. During the reporting period, following its withdrawal from the ceasefire agreement signed in Libreville on 11 January 2013, the Séléka launched a new military offensive against the Government in the Central African Republic resulting in the unconstitutional removal of President François Bozizé on 24 March 2013. The Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) has taken the lead in addressing the crisis. It has organized four extraordinary summits of Heads of State and Government dedicated to the situation in the Central African Republic. ECCAS also appointed a Mediator, President Denis Sassou-Nguesso of the Republic of the Congo. Meanwhile, the African Union Peace and Security Council has also closely followed the situation in the Central African Republic. It decided on 25 March to suspend the country from all African Union activities and to impose an asset freeze and travel ban on the Séléka leadership. The Peace and Security Council has subsequently met three times to discuss the situation in the Central African Republic. The African Union and the ECCAS Mediator co-chair the International

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Contact Group on the Central African Republic, which held its inaugural meeting in Brazzaville, on 3 May 2013.

3. The ongoing political, security, human rights and humanitarian crises in the country have had a significant impact on the Central African subregion. Notably, there has been an increase in the number of refugees from the Central African Republic into neighbouring countries, and the numbers continue to rise. As at 3 May 2013, more than 49,000 Central African refugees had fled to neighbouring countries, primarily Cameroon, Chad, the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Since December 2012, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has registered 35,540 new refugees from the Central African Republic in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 6,728 refugees in Chad, 1,024 in Cameroon, and 400 in the Congo. The plight of Central African refugees prompted the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, António Guterres, to visit the region on 12 April 2013, with a particular focus on the refugees located in the northern Democratic Republic of the Congo.

4. There has also been an increase in the availability and circulation of weapons in the subregion, including in areas hosting Central African refugees. For example, on 13 April 2013, Cameroonian security elements recovered a large stock of weapons, uniforms and ammunition in Garoua Boulaye, a small town on the border between Cameroon and the Central African Republic where about a thousand Central African refugees were accommodated.

5. Furthermore, the crisis in the Central African Republic has had repercussions on efforts to address the threat and impact of the activities of LRA. The precarious security situation in the Central African Republic led the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF), who are part of the African Union Regional Task Force against the Lord's Resistance Army, to temporarily suspend their operations in the Central African Republic. However, at a meeting with my Special Representative in April, the Ugandan authorities assured that its forces in the Central African Republic would continue their efforts to eliminate the threat of LRA (see section IV).

6. Meanwhile, the security situation in the Sahel continued to be of concern for Central Africa. The Community of Sahelo-Saharan States (CEN-SAD) held an extraordinary summit to discuss the security situation in the Sahel on 16 February, in N'Djamena. At the meeting it was decided to create two organs within CEN-SAD: the permanent council for sustainable development in the fight against poverty, and a permanent security council to help rid the region of terrorists and other threats to peace.

7. The spread of cross-border criminal activities in the subregion including poaching, mainly targeting elephants, is another growing security concern in Central Africa. During the period under review, it emerged that Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad and Gabon in particular are facing this problem.

8. In January 2013, the Agence gabonaise des parc nationaux released a report showing a tremendous decline in the elephant population in Gabon. Indeed, between 2004 and 2013, more than 11,000 elephants were slaughtered in the Minkebe Park area alone, in north-eastern Gabon. Gabon is not the only country targeted by poachers. In March 2013, 86 elephants, including 33 pregnant females, were slaughtered within a week in Chad. In Cameroon, recent data from the Government and specialized non-governmental organizations show that poachers decimated more

than 300 elephants in the northern area of Bouba Ndjida National Park in the last two months of 2012.

9. My Special Representative for Central Africa was also informed during consultations with national authorities and stakeholders in the subregion that illegal ivory trade may currently constitute an important source of funding for armed groups, including LRA. Also of concern is that poachers are using more and more sophisticated and powerful weapons, some of which, it is believed, might be originating from the fallout in Libya. The situation has become so serious that national authorities in some countries, such as Cameroon, have decided to use the national army, in addition to law and order enforcement agencies (police and gendarmerie) to hunt down poachers.

10. Youth unemployment continues to pose a potential risk for peace and security in Central Africa. High rates of unemployment among young people, combined with poverty and wide income gaps between rich and poor, put social cohesion under stress and endanger national stability and peace. In my report to the Security Council dated 13 December 2012 (S/2012/923), I expressed my grave concern about the high rates of youth unemployment in Central Africa and stressed the urgent need to address this issue. UNOCA is currently working with other entities, including the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, the African Development Bank and the International Organization of la Francophonie, to hold a regional forum on youth employment, political stability and peacebuilding in Central Africa by the last quarter of 2013.

11. Armed robbery at sea and acts of piracy continued to be a major security concern for countries of the Central African subregion. On 22 February 2013, countries of the subregion participated in a multinational military exercise, named "Obangame Express 2013", designed to improve cooperation on maritime safety and security among States in the Gulf of Guinea. The exercise, jointly organized by the United States Africa Command, the United States Naval Forces Africa and the Cameroon Ministry of Defence, is an annual event initiated in 2011.

12. Finally, during the reporting period, one country in the subregion organized elections: the senatorial elections in Cameroon of 14 April 2013. The political parties that participated were the ruling Cameroon People's Democratic Movement (CPDM), the Social Democratic Front (SDF), the National Union for Democracy and Progress, and the Cameroon Democratic Union. The elections were monitored by several national and international organizations, including the African Union, Transparency International, and the National Commission for Human Rights and Freedoms. There was a consensus that the elections were free and fair, despite some minor irregularities. On 29 April 2013, the Supreme Court, sitting in lieu of the Constitutional Council, announced that CPDM had won 56 of the 70 seats, while SDF won the remaining 14 seats. The President of Cameroon, Paul Biya, will appoint the remaining 30 senators, in accordance with the Constitution.

B. Socioeconomic trends

13. During the period under review, the majority of countries in Central Africa continued to enjoy strong economic growth rates. This progress is due, among other things, to the dynamism of extractive industries. Oil-producing countries especially continued to improve their macroeconomic situation. A number of non-oil-producing

countries also continued to record respectable growth rates. A recent report of the Economic Commission for Africa shows that Central Africa, as a whole, is currently among the African subregions with the highest positive real per capita GDP growth. Although slightly in decline, States members of the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa[1] (CEMAC), for instance, continue to display strong economic growth prospects, between 4 and 5 per cent in 2013.

14. However, economic growth in Central Africa, although strong and sustained, is not yet inclusive. Vast segments of the populations in many States continue to live in abject poverty. The gap between rich and poor is growing in the subregion, with the rich in a number of countries becoming increasingly richer and the poor increasingly poorer. The high economic growth rates in Central Africa have yet to be translated into poverty reduction. The 2013 edition of the UNDP *Human Development Report* shows that 4 of the 10 countries with the lowest human development index in the world are in Central Africa, and 8 of the 10 States members of ECCAS are ranked in the category of countries with a low human development index.

15. On issues relating to regional and international economic partnership, the seventh Summit of Heads of State and Government of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States was hosted by Equatorial Guinea on 13 and 14 December 2012. Participants agreed to broaden their partnerships rather than maintain privileged relations with the European Union. The Summit adopted the Malabo Declaration in which it approved a troika panel of Heads of State to represent the group in its negotiations on the Economic Partnership Agreements with the European Union. At the subregional level, ECCAS and CEMAC continued their efforts towards a single economic community within the subregion. The two institutions held a meeting in Yaoundé on 13 February 2013 to consider and adopt the terms of reference for 12 priority areas for harmonization of economic policies in Central Africa.

C. Human rights and gender

16. During the period under review, freedom of expression and the situation of journalists remained very precarious in some countries in Central Africa. Despite the proliferation of private media and the existence of regulatory institutions in most countries of the subregion, prison sentences for press offences was a major concern. Journalists and cyberjournalists continued to be victims of arrests, arbitrary detentions, intimidation, pressure, censorship and imprisonment. In some countries, programmes (radio and television) were often suspended when they dealt with issues that were considered critical of the Government.

17. Improving the legal environment for media and socioeconomic conditions of journalists is necessary to enable them to play their role in promoting human rights, peace and peacebuilding in the subregion.

18. With respect to women's rights, women and girls in the region continued to suffer from a significantly high incidence of female genital mutilation, early forced marriage, harassment of widows, and lack of access to education. In terms of

[1] The States members of CEMAC are: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon.

women's political participation, Central Africa continues to register a very low participation of women in decision-making positions, including in Parliament, averaging 20 per cent, with the exception of two countries, Rwanda, 56.3 per cent and Burundi, 32.4 per cent. Most of the countries in the subregion face challenges in advancing the gender equality agenda in critical areas such as health and education.

III. Activities of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa

A. Supporting Member States and subregional organizations

19. During the period under review, UNOCA and the secretariat of ECCAS continued to work closely in support of regional efforts to prevent conflict and consolidate peace in the 10 States members of ECCAS.[2]

20. In this regard, my Special Representative and the Secretary-General of ECCAS, Nassour Guelengdouksia Ouaidou, met regularly to review major political and security developments in the subregion and seek ways of addressing them. My Special Representative also invited ECCAS to participate in his regular briefings to the international diplomatic community accredited to Gabon on the political and security situation in the subregion. The last briefing was held on 2 May.

21. At the technical level, senior officials of the two institutions continued to meet on a monthly basis. UNOCA and ECCAS also held a review session in February 2013 to assess progress in the implementation of the framework of cooperation signed in May 2012. The framework of cooperation focuses on the following areas: governance; electoral processes; mediation and good offices; security, including efforts to combat the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons and piracy and armed robbery at sea; and training and strengthening institutional capacity.

22. In this regard, progress has been made in the area of mediation and good offices. A framework for a regional strategy for mediation and conflict prevention in Central Africa is expected to be introduced to the Heads of State and Government of the subregion during the next ECCAS Summit. The framework was developed on the basis of the recommendations from the capacity-building workshop held in November 2012 in Libreville. Some ECCAS staff who participated in the capacity-building workshop were involved in the negotiation of the Libreville Agreements, and continue to provide support to their implementation.

23. On security aspects, UNOCA continued its fruitful collaboration with ECCAS on piracy and armed robbery at sea (see paras. 26-28). UNOCA also facilitated the effective participation of ECCAS in the third ministerial meeting of the African Union Joint Coordination Mechanism for the operationalization of its Regional Cooperation Initiative against the Lord's Resistance Army, held in Addis Ababa on 24 April, where, among other things, the situation in the Central African Republic was discussed in relation to its impact on the fight against LRA.

[2] The States members of ECCAS are: Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Sao Tome and Principe.

B. Preventive diplomacy and peacebuilding

24. As part of efforts to address the threat of terrorism in the Sahel and Maghreb, my Special Representative participated in a regional conference on border control in the Sahel and Maghreb regions, held in Rabat, from 13 to 15 March 2013. The conference was organized by the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate. At that meeting, my Special Representative reported on the experience of Central Africa on this issue, notably on discussions held at the counter-terrorism workshop organized in December 2012 on the sidelines of the 35th ministerial meeting of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa in Brazzaville, as well as the putting in place of a network of focal points which would develop a subregional strategy against terrorism and the proliferation of light weapons. The conference adopted a number of recommendations, including the need to enhance national, bilateral and regional cooperation through the regular exchange of sensitive information and joint training for border officials of countries in the Sahel and Maghreb regions and the creation of national and regional databases on terrorist movements and activities.

25. During the period under review, UNOCA began preparations for the 36th ministerial meeting of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, to be held in Malabo in July 2013. In this regard, an official mission was carried out to Malabo from 27 April to 5 May 2013.

C. Piracy and armed robbery at sea committed off the coast of the States of the Gulf of Guinea

26. In line with Security Council resolution 2039 (2012), my Special Representatives for Central Africa and West Africa continued to support ongoing preparations for the convening of the regional Summit of Heads of State and Government on maritime piracy and armed robbery at sea in the Gulf of Guinea, to be held in Cameroon on 24 and 25 June 2013. They facilitated meetings among ECCAS, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Gulf of Guinea Commission and with various partners. They also sensitized stakeholders and partners on the importance of the implementation of resolution 2039 (2012).

27. A ministerial meeting on maritime security and armed robbery at sea was held in Cotonou, Benin, on 19 March 2013 with the participation of 25 countries and experts from partner institutions. UNOCA participated in the drafting of three key documents which were adopted at the meeting, namely, the ECCAS/ECOWAS Political Declaration on Illicit Maritime Activities in the Gulf of Guinea; a memorandum of understanding between ECCAS, ECOWAS and the Gulf of Guinea Commission; and a code of conduct for the three entities.

28. As a follow-up to the ministerial meeting, my Special Representative for Central Africa also extensively consulted and mobilized relevant stakeholders in the subregion, including Cameroon and the Secretary-General of ECCAS. From his regular exchanges, it has emerged that positive and encouraging steps are being taken towards the smooth organization of the Summit. Meanwhile, UNOCA, working closely with ECCAS, will continue to mobilize the subregion and raise awareness on the importance of the Summit.

IV. Lord's Resistance Army

A. Current situation

29. Suspected LRA attacks continued to be reported in remote border areas of the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. While access challenges and the multiplicity of armed actors, particularly in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, often obstruct systematic tracking of LRA activities, some 212 LRA attacks were reported in 2012, resulting in 45 deaths and 220 abductions, 25 per cent of them involving children. Some 66 suspected LRA attacks were also reported during the first quarter of 2013 in the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, resulting in 30 deaths and 87 abductions, 10 per cent of them involving children. March 2013 saw a spike in presumed LRA incidents, with 30 attacks in the Democratic Republic of the Congo alone, more than in any other month since January 2012.

30. More than 420,000 people remain displaced in LRA-affected areas in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan. This includes over 390,000 internally displaced persons, the vast majority of whom (nearly 320,000) are in Bas-Uélé and Haut-Uélé districts of Orientale Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo. It also includes over 29,000 refugees, mostly in South Sudan.

31. There were no reports of LRA attacks in South Sudan during the reporting period. The last attack was reported in June 2011. This could be attributed to the presence of UPDF, and their cooperation with the Sudan People's Liberation Army, and of a community-based group known as home guards which have pushed LRA from South Sudan into the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The improvement in the security situation allowed some 21,000 people to return to Ezo, Maridi, Mundri, Nzara, Tambura and Yambio counties in Western Equatoria State in 2012. However, 49,000 people remain displaced as a result of LRA attacks. South Sudan also hosts 18,370 Congolese and 1,589 Central African refugees.

32. While the direct threat of LRA attacks has diminished, its impact continues to be felt in the form of large numbers of internally displaced persons — 49,000 — and about 20,000 refugees from the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, located in camps near urban centres in Western Equatoria State, areas perceived to be most secure but with attendant challenges of food shortages, overcrowding, infectious diseases and a general lack of social services. Although the Government of South Sudan, with the assistance of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), has established a child protection unit to support the reintegration of returning abductees, it lacks capacity to provide wide-ranging support.

33. According to the Government of the Sudan, there are no LRA elements in Kafia Kingi. Reports from various sources, however, continue to suggest the existence of an LRA base in the disputed enclave on the border between the Central African Republic, South Sudan and the Sudan, perpetuating fear and preventing internally displaced persons and refugees from returning to their homes.

34. Meanwhile, the situation in Bas-Uélé remained sensitive as several attacks attributed to suspected LRA elements were reported in Ango territory, on the

Dungu-Faradje and Niangara-Ngilima-Bangadi axis. The large and porous border between the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as well as the absence of border authorities, allows LRA splinter and other unidentified groups to move between both countries.

35. On 21 March 2013, the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) received 27 abductees released by LRA close to Digba in Bas-Uélé. The group was composed of eight adults, nine children (under the age of 18) and nine infants (under the age of 3) originating from the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Sudan and Uganda. It is the largest group released in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in several years. All unaccompanied children were handed over to the child protection section, while the adults from South Sudan and the Central African Republic were repatriated by MONUSCO.

B. Coordination and resource mobilization

36. In its presidential statement of 19 December 2012 (S/PRST/2012/28), the Security Council requested a prioritized and sequenced implementation plan to support the United Nations regional strategy to address the threat and impact of the Lord's Resistance Army (S/2012/481). The Security Council also requested that the implementation plan identify key projects that support the priority activities of the strategy.

37. In response to that request, on 11 and 12 February my Special Representative and the African Union Special Envoy on the LRA issue, Francisco Madeira, co-chaired a meeting of LRA focal points in Entebbe, Uganda, to review and discuss a draft implementation plan. National, regional, international and civil society partners also participated in the meeting. As a result of the meeting and of subsequent consultations with LRA stakeholders, I submitted to the Council on 19 April 2013 the implementation plan for the United Nations regional strategy to address the threat and impact of the activities of the Lord's Resistance Army (S/2013/240, annex).

38. The implementation plan provides an overview of the impact of the LRA strategy and progress in its implementation. It highlights the work that has been conducted by the United Nations system since the adoption of the strategy, in close collaboration with the African Union and in support to LRA-affected countries, within existing resources and with extrabudgetary contributions. The implementation plan also details short- and medium-term priorities within the five strategic areas of intervention identified in the LRA strategy, with corresponding projects that require funding. In addition, it assigns specific roles and responsibilities to the various stakeholders working on the LRA issue. Three levels of coordination of LRA-related activities are identified: global (led by UNOCA); thematic (with one United Nations entity covering each goal); and country-specific. Finally, the implementation plan establishes timelines and clarifies lead entity and reporting mechanisms.

C. Implementation of the strategy

1. Operationalization and full implementation of the African Union Regional Cooperation Initiative against the Lord's Resistance Army

39. During the reporting period, the strategic documents required for the operationalization of the African Union Regional Task Force against the LRA were finalized. The African Union Joint Coordination Mechanism on LRA met at the level of Chiefs of Defence Staff in Bangui on 20 December 2012. That meeting reviewed the regional Task Force's command directives, concept of operations, rules of engagement and standard operating procedures. The documents were endorsed by the Ministers of Defence of the Joint Coordination Mechanism in Addis Ababa on 15 January 2013. UNOCA participated in both meetings.

40. In addition, my Special Representative, in close collaboration with the African Union Special Envoy on LRA, continued to advocate with LRA-affected countries to mobilize support for the full implementation of the United Nations regional strategy to address the threat and impact of the activities of the Lord's Resistance Army.

41. They encouraged the affected countries to increase their troop contribution towards the 5,000 authorized troops for the African Union Regional Task Force. On 13 February, my Special Representative and the African Union Special Envoy on the LRA issue travelled to Dungu, Democratic Republic of the Congo, to participate in a ceremony to formally hand over 500 troops from the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the Task Force. The LRA-affected countries have to date officially contributed 3,350 troops to the Task Force.

42. My Special Representative and the African Union Special Envoy also travelled to three out of the four LRA-affected countries (South Sudan, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda) from 27 March to 4 April 2013. They met with government authorities, bilateral partners, representatives of the United Nations system and other stakeholders.

43. Furthermore, efforts continued to be made to ensure that the Task Force has sufficient funding and resources available. In March 2013, the African Union equipped the Task Force headquarters with VSAT communications in order to facilitate communication with the African Union in Addis Ababa. The African Union convened a support forum on 24 April 2013, also in Addis Ababa. The meeting was organized with support from the United Nations Office to the African Union and with the participation of UNOCA, in preparation for a joint African Union-United Nations resource mobilization meeting to be held during the second half of 2013.

44. Finally, a new challenge for the full operationalization of the Task Force emerged during the reporting period, and was discussed during the third ministerial meeting of the Joint Coordination Mechanism, held in Addis Ababa on 22 and 23 April 2013. Participants expressed their concern about the impact of the crisis in the Central African Republic on the fight against LRA. In particular, participants raised the possibility of a confrontation in Obo between Séléka troops and the Ugandan troops deployed as part of the regional Task Force. The African Union Special Envoy on LRA led a mission to the Central African Republic to discuss the concerns. As a result of his mission, it was agreed with the Prime Minister of the Central African Republic, Nicolas Tiangaye, that the Task Force should continue to

operate in the Central African Republic to combat the LRA threat. The Task Force had suspended its operations in the Central African Republic on 23 April as a result of the Séléka offensive against Bangui.

2. The enhancement of efforts to promote the protection of civilians

45. The Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo deployed troops to Ango in February 2013. However, the force's limited presence combined with poor road access hampers a timely and adequate response to protect civilians.

46. MONUSCO forces enhanced patrols and have carried out operations jointly with the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in "vulnerable" areas in Haut-Uélé in efforts to enhance protection. In Dungu, MONUSCO is working with communities on early warning mechanisms and also continues to assist in the elaboration of community protection plans. MONUSCO has also been providing logistic support to Vodacom in the setting up of telephone network signals in Niangara, Bangadi, Doruma and Ango for use in early warning.

47. As part of actions to enhance the protection of civilians, and ensure better accessibility to the population, MONUSCO continued the rehabilitation of key axes. The rehabilitation of 45 km on the Dungu-Ngilima axis is set to be completed in June 2013 and will be followed by work on the Duru-Nambiapay axis. The latter will help in fostering cross-border community discussions on issues of common interest, including exchange of information on movements of suspected LRA elements. As part of the support provided to the authorities, MONUSCO facilitated a first contact between the Dungu Territory Administrator and his South Sudanese counterpart. A cross-border meeting to discuss LRA and other issues is also planned to help to achieve better security coordination and improve economic activities and exchanges between the two communities.

48. UNICEF and its partners continue to support women and children escaping or rescued from LRA. This includes support for interim care as well as national and cross-border family tracing, reunification and reintegration. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 80 per cent of those children were identified through a system of mobile teams made up of a psychosocial worker, a nurse and a protection officer. They are part of an innovative approach applied in 12 localities in Haut-Uélé and Bas-Uélé. The aim is to reach children affected by LRA who had been unaccounted for and to ensure that community-based mechanisms operate even in remote villages. Child committees linked to local non-governmental organizations have been created and continue to liaise with child protection mobile teams for identification and referral of cases.

3. Expansion of current disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration activities to cover all LRA-affected areas

49. With the financial support of Germany, the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations led the development of a series of standard operating procedures on the disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration of LRA, in consultation with the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic, MONUSCO, UNMISS, UNOCA, the Department of Political Affairs, the African Union, and representatives of regional Governments and other United Nations partners. Planning is ongoing for translation and roll-out of the standard operating

procedures. A regional sensitization project aimed at encouraging defections of LRA members through the use of locally broadcast music and messaging was conducted in LRA-affected areas, also with the support of Germany.

50. MONUSCO has conducted an evaluation of the prevailing disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration strategy and practices in Haut-Uélé and Bas-Uélé districts, along with a review of the Assembly Point project. The review of the Assembly Point project underlined the sound basis of its methodology but revealed that the Assembly Points approach — entailing the defection and controlled surrender of LRA ex-combatants in combination with applied military pressure — requires further strengthening. Prior to the recent crisis in the Central African Republic, the Assembly Point model was replicated successfully in the country through disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration partners working with UPDF and the United States Africa Command. Coordination between the systems in both the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo is envisioned as a logical follow-up action. The evaluation also highlighted the continuing need for the establishment of reintegration and rehabilitation options for adult Congolese LRA escapees and combatants, as, to date, no programmes targeting this group are available.

51. MONUSCO is exploring the possibility of creating a mission-level inter-agency working group specific to LRA issues. Currently in the development stages, the initiative is in direct follow-up to recommendations resulting from a UNOCA-led experts meeting on implementation of the LRA strategy held in Entebbe in February, during which the improvement of country-level coordination mechanisms was identified as a priority.

4. Promotion of a coordinated humanitarian and child protection response in all LRA-affected areas

52. During the reporting period, cross-border information-sharing among the humanitarian country teams in the affected areas was further strengthened. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs continued to issue quarterly regional updates on the humanitarian situation and response in LRA-affected areas. Through a collective approach, including the humanitarian country teams in LRA-affected areas, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs supported the revision of the "Regional overview of needs and response in LRA-affected areas". That document was submitted to the Security Council in April as an annex to the implementation plan.

53. The regional overview identifies three strategic priorities to meet the urgent life-saving needs of vulnerable people in LRA-affected areas, namely (a) reduce morbidity and mortality by ensuring that people have access to basic needs and services such as food, health, nutrition and emergency education; (b) strengthen protection for at-risk populations by helping to address grave human rights violations, reunite children with their families, release children from association with LRA and reduce and respond to gender-based violence; and (c) improve living conditions, strengthen resilience and support the empowerment of LRA-affected people in the region.

54. Based on the 2013 humanitarian appeals in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan, the regional overview presents

estimated financial gaps of about US$ 84 million required to respond to humanitarian needs in LRA-affected areas in the three countries. This estimate does not include nationwide projects (also targeting LRA-affected areas) already included in the existing humanitarian appeals for the three countries.

55. Humanitarian agencies continued their efforts to respond to needs while promoting, where possible, return and recovery programmes. The top priorities for strengthening the humanitarian response in the LRA-affected region include improving access, particularly through greater logistical capacity, as well as strengthening the response capacities by bringing in more operational partners, in particular in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic.

56. With the improvement in the security situation in South Sudan, about 21,000 displaced people returned to their places of origin in Yambio and elsewhere in Western Equatoria State. Verification exercises that humanitarian partners undertook in those displacement areas in 2012 revealed that most of the remaining internally displaced persons are generally integrated into host communities close to their places of origin, often "commuting" to farm their lands. In this context, humanitarian partners have agreed that the focus on the internally displaced persons in Western Equatoria State should be transitioning from humanitarian to recovery and development. Meanwhile, UNHCR is continuing its protection and assistance activities for the nearly 20,000 refugees in the two camps in Western Equatoria State and one camp in Central Equatoria State.

57. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, some 347,000 remained displaced in the Haut-Uélé and Bas-Uélé districts of Orientale Province, due to continued LRA activities. Humanitarian partners extended their reach in Bas-Uélé to newly assessed areas where attacks previously went unreported until abductees could escape and identify their places of origin. However, the overall humanitarian presence in Bas-Uélé is still very limited, with few non-governmental organizations, inadequate funding and limited engagement of local authorities in assisting people in need. Protection activities and assistance programming need to be strengthened further, in particular in Haut- and Bas-Uélé, and should be complemented by more long-term recovery and development efforts.

58. Despite the existing LRA threats, a timid return trend of internally displaced persons continues to be observed, particularly towards the main cities such as Dungu, Faradje and Niangara (Haut-Uélé). In that context, humanitarian agencies are implementing a mixed approach: continuing humanitarian assistance while encouraging early recovery activities where possible. Several projects funded by the Democratic Republic of the Congo pooled fund were implemented in the sectors of food security, health, essential household items, protection, education, logistics, water, sanitation and hygiene, early recovery, etc. In 2013, humanitarian agencies in the LRA-affected areas in the Democratic Republic of the Congo have funding gaps of at least $63 million. Besides assistance and protection projects, other priorities in LRA-affected areas include improving roads and bridges to facilitate humanitarian access and the potential for trade; building basic infrastructures; and implementing income-generating activities.

59. In the south-eastern Central African Republic, there are an estimated 24,000 LRA-related displaced people, including 21,000 internally displaced persons. Humanitarian programmes in LRA-affected areas have been seriously hampered by

insecurity related to the Séléka rebel activity. Limited funding for the south-east has caused some non-governmental organizations to phase out or reduce their activities, resulting in a substantial decrease in humanitarian projects since 2012. In that context, there is a need to increase humanitarian funding, particularly in the areas of food security, protection, health, logistics and early recovery. Humanitarian agencies require at least $20 million to respond to these needs in 2013.

60. By April 2013, the World Food Programme (WFP) had provided food assistance to over 70,000 beneficiaries in the LRA-affected areas of Haut- and Bas-Uélé. In total, WFP assisted about 620,000 people from 2009 to 2012. Some of the ongoing activities include emergency school feeding, food for work and nutrition programmes. WFP also distributes food in the Dungu, Ango and Faradje territories, for newly displaced people. In Orientale Province, LRA elements in small groups are still present in various areas of Haut-Uélé and Bas-Uélé mainly in Duru-Doruma, the Ngilima-Bangadi-Niangara triangle and Gramba National Park.

61. UNICEF continues to work in partnership with United Nations missions and other offices monitoring and reporting on protection activities and with child protection focal points to ensure that children associated with LRA are referred to the appropriate channels for tracing, reunification and reintegration.

5. Provision of support to LRA-affected Governments in the fields of peacebuilding, human rights, rule of law and development, to enable them to establish State authority across their territory

62. During the reporting period, MONUSCO continued to work with local authorities and civil society to strengthen their capacities. In the framework of the restoration of State authority, MONUSCO organized a meeting on 30 January 2013 in Dungu, where district authorities and civil society agreed on priority areas for Haut- and Bas-Uélé. Meanwhile the construction by the International Organization for Migration of a police station for the protection of children is under way in Dungu.

63. In the justice sector, MONUSCO continued to provide logistic support to improve security and living conditions at Dungu prison. The organization of mobile sessions by a military tribunal, in April, in Dungu, with MONUSCO support, will help to decrease the number of pre-trial inmates. Due to LRA attacks in the past, several police stations were closed. MONUSCO is currently working with the Police nationale congolaise in identifying ways to reopen them. On 20 April, a police substation will be reopened in Gangala na Bodio with MONUSCO support.

64. During the reporting period, MONUSCO continued to work with local authorities and civil society organizations to strengthen their capacities. MONUSCO provided logistic support to the Dungu Territory Administrator to reach out to local authorities and to victims of LRA in remote localities. MONUSCO is also supporting civil society organizations with capacity-building on early warning systems and information-sharing.

65. Human rights assessment missions were organized to Ango, related to the conflict between the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Mbororo community, who have been suspected of cooperating with LRA by the population. These allegations could not be confirmed.

66. Since 2011, the United Nations has been implementing a joint programme on peacebuilding and development in LRA-affected communities in northern Uganda through funding from the Peacebuilding Fund. The programme has helped to strengthen human rights, accountability and governance capacity in government and non-governmental bodies. The programme also improved public awareness and empowered grass-roots groups on advocacy, including on issues of reparation. Districts have lobbied for financial support to build monuments, conduct memorials and carry out reconciliation activities for LRA victims. The programme has also built the capacity of the Uganda Human Rights Commission to document human rights violations conducted during the LRA conflict. Increased community awareness and support of women and children returning from LRA has been achieved through hundreds of community dialogues in 72 sub-counties. This has led to communities becoming more sympathetic to the women and children affected by armed conflict, leading to more cohesive and organized community life.

67. At the time of writing of this report, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights was finalizing a report on the human rights abuses committed in the region affected by the Lord's Resistance Army, covering all LRA-affected countries. It documents the human rights abuses committed by LRA from its formation in 1987 until 2012. It also recounts how national armies, which were supposed to protect civilians, ended up subjecting them to more rights violations, including murder, torture, illegal detention and sexual violence.

68. The report finds that LRA systematically violated international human rights and humanitarian law by subjecting civilians to summary executions, attacks, torture, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, abductions, forced conscriptions, sexual violence, slavery, displacement, widespread pillaging, poor living standards, lack of access to health care, education and work, as well as the outright denial of the freedom of conscience, thought and religion. The report finds that LRA is responsible for more than 100,000 deaths, that from 60,000 to 100,000 children are believed to have been abducted by the rebel group and that 2.5 million civilians have been displaced as a result of its incursions.

V. Observations and recommendations

69. I am greatly concerned about the situation in the Central African Republic and its impact on peace and security in the subregion. The precarious situation of internally displaced persons and of refugees in the Central African subregion, as well as the general situation of human rights abuses caused by armed conflicts and other crises, calls for urgent attention, support and response by the international community. I commend ECCAS for taking the lead in finding peaceful solutions to the crises in the subregion through dialogue and negotiation, with the support of the African Union.

70. There is an urgent need to help to restore security and stability in the Central African Republic and to stop the ongoing assault against the population. The Security Council must act quickly to protect the people of the Central African Republic and prevent the potential spillover effects of the conflict to the entire subregion.

71. The international community needs to send a strong message to Séléka leaders that there is no impunity for murder, looting, and unconstitutional changes of

government. I call upon the Security Council to consider sanctions and other steps against those who have committed gross human rights violations, including sexual violence against women and children.

72. It remains a priority for States in the region to improve their electoral rules and procedures to allow popular participation, as well as to establish more accessible institutions to ensure representative governance.

73. I am encouraged by the recent decision of the Community of Sahelo-Saharan States to create a permanent council for sustainable development for the fight against poverty (poverty which breeds terrorism), and a permanent security council to send the terrorists out of the Sahel and the Sahara. This falls in line with global efforts, particularly those of the United Nations, to fight terrorism in the world, particularly in the Sahel region.

74. Poaching and its potential linkages to other criminal, even terrorist, activities constitute a grave menace to sustainable peace and security in Central Africa. In this regard, I urge Governments of the subregion to consider the issue of poaching as a major national and subregional security concern requiring their concerted and coordinated action.

75. I welcome the commitment of the Cameroonian authorities to host the regional Summit on piracy in the Gulf of Guinea in June within the framework of efforts to implement the recommendations made by the Security Council in its resolution 2018 (2011). I encourage the various Member States, ECCAS, ECOWAS and the Gulf of Guinea Commission to spare no efforts for the success of the Summit and to continue to work together to address the growing threat of maritime insecurity and piracy in the Gulf of Guinea.

76. I take note of the potential threats that could be posed to peace and stability in Central Africa by the high rate of youth unemployment and encourage national authorities to continue ongoing efforts to address this challenge through the provision of appropriate skills training and creation of employment opportunities for this important segment of their populations. UNOCA will continue to work closely with ECCAS and other subregional, regional and international partners and stakeholders to coordinate efforts to organize the proposed subregional conference on youth employment, political stability and peace consolidation.

77. In order for Central African States to respond to the challenges related to women's rights and gender equality, I urge Governments in the region to fulfil their obligations to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment, as articulated in the Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and to take measures to implement Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).

78. I commend the continued commitment of the Governments of the LRA-affected countries to address the threat posed by LRA. The crisis in the Central African Republic has been a major challenge to this commitment. I am concerned about the risk that, if the tracking of LRA elements is weakened, the armed group could re-emerge as a source of danger and insecurity to countries in the subregion.

79. I welcome the progress made in efforts to address the threat posed by LRA, notably in the finalization of a prioritized and sequenced implementation plan to support the United Nations regional strategy. In this regard, I commend the contributions of LRA-affected countries, non-governmental organizations, as well as

United Nations entities and other partners, and encourage them to fully implement the plan. I particularly call on the international community to provide the requisite support to fund the implementation plan.

80. In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation to the Governments of Central African countries, ECCAS, the African Union, the Gulf of Guinea Commission, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and other subregional and regional institutions, for their close and continued cooperation with UNOCA. I thank the various entities within the United Nations system working in Central Africa, including the heads of United Nations peace operations, regional offices, country teams and other relevant entities, for their support and cooperation with UNOCA. Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to my Special Representative, Abou Moussa, and the staff of UNOCA as well as members of the United Nations country team in Gabon for their continuing efforts to advance peace and security in Central Africa.

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Agenda items 34, 39, 67, 69 and 83

Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

Promotion and protection of human rights

The rule of law at the national and international levels

Security Council
Sixty-eighth year

Letter dated 17 May 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with instructions received from the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan, I would like to draw your attention to the letter dated 9 May 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Armenia (S/2013/279) in connection with the briefing by the Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to the Security Council on 7 May 2013.

It is notable that, in contrast to his almost identical letter sent on the same occasion last year (see S/2012/88), the Permanent Representative of Armenia surprisingly did not express this time his discontent with the opening of discussions on the Daghlyq Garabagh (Nagorno-Karabakh) issue in the Security Council. The reason for such inconsistency is simple and explained by the fact that, notwithstanding Armenia's opposition to even mentioning the problem or its various aspects outside what it calls the "agreed format", not only the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, but also the vast majority of Council members specifically referred to or made substantial comments on the matter.

It seems also that the Permanent Representative of Armenia inattentively listened to the statement by Azerbaijan at the briefing (see S/PV.6961). Otherwise, he would refrain from asserting that "the representative of Azerbaijan did not even recognize the role of the Co-Chairs and their contribution to the peace process". In its statement, Azerbaijan pointed out that "[t]he OSCE provides an ongoing forum

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for discussions on settling the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan" and took "positive note of the support of the Chairperson-in-Office for mediation efforts in that regard".

It is clear that the letter from the Permanent Representative of Armenia not only failed to respond to the arguments expressed in the statement by Azerbaijan, but also provided yet another important example of Armenia's falsifications and manifest disregard of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

Thus, according to Armenia's opinion, Azerbaijan allegedly refused to comply with the key provisions of the Security Council resolutions of 1993 regarding the establishment of a ceasefire and thus obstructed their timely implementation and nullified their intended effect. Numerous facts and documents, including the verbatim records of the Security Council meetings and statements and reports of the Chairpersons of the Minsk Conference of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, easily refute Armenia's interpretation of the events and prove its deliberate non-compliance with the resolutions and consistent attempts to obstruct the peace process. Indeed, Armenia's territorial claims towards and military actions against Azerbaijan were aimed from the very beginning at seizing the territories by means of force and fundamental change of their demographic composition.

The Permanent Representative of Armenia once again groundlessly blamed Azerbaijan for allegedly misinforming the members of the Security Council about the work and conclusions of the OSCE 2005 fact-finding and 2010 field assessment missions to the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. However, the findings of those missions speak for themselves. Thus, in its report, the OSCE fact-finding mission in 2005 sought to analyse the situation of settlers in the occupied areas outside the Daghlyq Garabagh region of Azerbaijan. It concluded that "[s]ettlement figures for the areas discussed in this report, whose populations the fact-finding mission has interviewed, counted or directly observed, are as follows: in Kelbajar district approximately 1,500; in Agdam district from 800 to 1,000; in Fizuli district under 10; in Jebrail district under 100; in Zangelan district from 700 to 1,000; and in Kubatly district from 1,000 to 1,500. Thus, the mission's conclusions on the number of settlers do not precisely correspond with population figures provided by the local authorities, which were higher" (see A/59/747-S/2005/187, p. 33).

It is essential to note that the Armenians resided in none of the above-mentioned districts of Azerbaijan before the conflict. In 2010, the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs, joined by OSCE and Officials of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, conducted a field assessment mission in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. According to the findings of the mission, about 14,000 Armenian settlers have replaced 700,000 Azerbaijanis forced to leave (see A/65/801-S/2011/208). There are no doubts about the intentional and organized character of settlements. Thus, in its 2005 report, the fact-finding mission noted that "disparate settlement incentives traceable to the authorities within and between the various territories" existed (A/59/747-S/2005/187, p. 35). According to the International Crisis Group, such incentives include, among others, "free housing, social infrastructure, inexpensive or free utilities, low taxes, money and livestock" (International Crisis Group report of 14 September 2005, p. 7).

It is indisputable that Armenia, as the occupying Power, and its subordinate separatist regime in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan are the only addressees of

the call of the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group to refrain from actions that would change the demographic, social or cultural character of those territories (such as further settlement, the erection of monuments and the changing of place names). Armenia, both directly by the use of its own armed forces and agents and indirectly through the use of its subordinate separatist regime in the occupied Daghlyq Garabagh region and other elements for which it bears international responsibility, has breached international law in seizing and continuing to occupy and control that region and surrounding areas of Azerbaijan. In other words, Armenia is responsible not only for the actions of its own armed forces and other organs and agents of its Government, but also for the actions of the subordinate separatist regime illegally created by it in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

For this reason, the Permanent Representative of Armenia failed to explain in his letter why the recommendations of the two OSCE-led fact-finding and fact-assessment missions remained on paper. He likewise refrained from commenting on the reports regarding the transfer of Syrian Armenians into the occupied territories and on his country's attempts to operate flights into and out of those areas. Indeed, facts are stubborn things, and even sophisticated falsification inherent in Armenia's propaganda methods is unable to alter the state of facts and evidence.

Speculations on the fictitious "armenophobia", made-up stories about "the systematic acts of vandalism", "contempt towards human values and heritage" and the "promotion and manifestation of racism and hate crimes" in Azerbaijan are also ridiculous and beneath all criticism. Authors of such fabrications disregard the simple fact that, unlike Armenia, which has implemented the total ethnic cleansing of both its own territory and the occupied territories of Azerbaijan of all non-Armenians and thus succeeded in creating a uniquely mono-ethnic culture in those areas, Azerbaijan has preserved its ethnic and cultural diversity to the present day and many Armenians are living not only in the occupied Daghlyq Garabagh region, but also in the capital and other major cities of Azerbaijan.

Moreover, no single Azerbaijani historic and cultural monument was left undamaged, and no sacred site escaped desecration, both in the occupied territories and in Armenia. Systematic efforts are being undertaken towards altering the historical and cultural features of the occupied areas. Thus, in clear violation of international law, alleged "reconstruction" and "development" projects for Shusha, unique cultural and historical centre of Azerbaijan, and "archaeological excavations" in Aghdam and other occupied territories of Azerbaijan are carried out with the sole purpose of removing any signs of their Azerbaijani cultural and historical roots. As for the fate of the Azerbaijani historical and cultural heritage in Armenia, those monuments which survived until the beginning of the conflict have since been destroyed, such as the Damirbulag mosque in Yerevan. The mosques and Azerbaijani monuments in other places of Armenia shared the same fate, together with ancient or modern Azerbaijani cemeteries and toponyms of Azerbaijani origin, which have been erased from present-day Armenia (for more about the war against Azerbaijani cultural heritage see A/62/691-S/2008/95).

It would be useful and helpful if, instead of commenting on the developments that had occurred in the case of Ramil Safarov, the Permanent Representative of Armenia would recall that his own President had unquestionably confessed his direct involvement in brutal massacres during the conflict which claimed the lives of thousands of Azerbaijani civilians, including children, women and the elderly.

Evidence of the special relationship in Armenia with terrorists and war criminals can also be seen in their glorification at the State level, including raising them to the status of national heroes and bestowing State decorations on them.

The letter from the Permanent Representative of Armenia is illustrative of that Member State's uninterrupted attempts to create a wrong impression of the real situation on the ground and to deflect the attention of the international community from the urgent need to address the main problems caused by its continuing aggression against Azerbaijan. Obviously, Armenia's assertions about Azerbaijan's "subversive and terrorist actions", "attacks against civilian health-care facilities, schools and kindergartens" and "threats against civilian aircraft" are nothing other than pure fiction and yet another proof of Yerevan's irresponsible and provocative attempt to mislead the international community.

While expressing his preoccupation with human rights and fundamental freedoms of the Armenians residing in Daghlyq Garabagh, the Permanent Representative of Armenia omitted to mention the rights and freedoms of the significantly larger Azerbaijani population of the same region, which were deliberately and savagely suppressed as a result of their forcible expulsion during Armenia's aggression against Azerbaijan. It is obvious that one cannot demand the legitimation of privileges at the core of which is the discriminatory denial of fundamental rights and freedoms with respect to others.

In self-serving manner, the Permanent Representative of Armenia once again referred to the principle of self-determination. It is obvious that Armenia is speculating on this principle with the sole purpose of covering up the results of its unlawful use of force and ethnic cleansing and achieving the annexation of the captured territories of Azerbaijan. Indeed, in apparent contravention of the international legal understanding of self-determination, Armenia is trying to impose a view that this principle can be applied in the form of unilateral secession to persons belonging to the Armenian ethnic minority group residing in Azerbaijan. The danger here is obvious. If accepted, this approach would affect the true value of self-determination as such, undermine the unity of all multi-ethnic societies and provoke the rise of discrimination and intolerance on racial, ethnic, religious and cultural grounds throughout the world. The principle of self-determination exists in reality as a rule of international law and, as such, applies to the peoples of the colonially defined territorial units and peoples subjected to alien subjugation, domination and exploitation, including peoples under foreign military occupation. There can be no doubt that persons belonging to the Armenian minority group and residing in the Daghlyq Garabagh region of Azerbaijan have nothing to do with either of these categories of peoples.

As we have repeatedly stated on a number of occasions in the past, the critical factor in addressing the issue of self-determination with regard to the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan is that all actions aimed at tearing away a part of the territory of Azerbaijan were unlawful and constituted a violation of the fundamental norm of respect for the territorial integrity of States, as well as a violation of other peremptory norms of general international law. In its advisory opinion of 22 July 2010, the International Court of Justice reaffirmed that the illegality attached to unilateral secessions stems from the fact that "they were, or would have been, connected with the unlawful use of force or other egregious violations of norms of general international law, in particular those of a peremptory

character (*jus cogens*)". Consequently, the claims of Armenia, which resorted to the unlawful use of force to occupy the territory of Azerbaijan and committed the most serious international crimes, such as war crimes, crimes against humanity and even genocide, are contrary to and unsustainable under international law.

At the same time, the concept of self-determination provides for the participation of peoples in the governance of their States. In this context, the inhabitants of Daghlyq Garabagh, including both the Armenians and Azerbaijanis, are entitled to the full benefit of human rights and freedoms, including the right to self-determination within the internationally recognized boundaries of the Republic of Azerbaijan and as part of its population, which is the primary subject of the right to self-determination under international law.

According to the Permanent Representative of Armenia, his Government welcomed the statements on the conflict settlement made by the Co-Chair countries of the OSCE Minsk Group. However, as the practice shows, the commitments and deeds of Armenia have always been at variance. In reality, by disregarding the resolutions of the Security Council and General Assembly, by challenging the OSCE-led peace efforts, by continuing to illegally occupy the territories of Azerbaijan, by deliberately denying the right of more than 1 million Azerbaijani refugees and internally displaced persons to return to their homes, by pursuing racist ideology and by misinterpreting the fundamental norms and principles of international law, Armenia clearly demonstrates who is actually responsible for undermining regional peace, security and stability.

Indeed, what is in reality fuelling regional tensions is the continued illegal occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan and the persistent contempt for basic human rights of Azerbaijani internally displaced persons and refugees. The only way to address the existing challenges and concerns and achieve the solution of the conflict is to ensure that the occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan is ended and that the inalienable right of the forcibly displaced population to return to their homes is exercised without further delay.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 34, 39, 67, 69 and 83, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Agshin **Mehdiyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2013/299

Security Council

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20 May 2013

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General concerning the credentials of the deputy representative and the alternate representatives of the Republic of Korea on the Security Council

Pursuant to rule 15 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General wishes to report that he has received a letter dated 16 May 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations stating that Ms. Paik Ji-ah has been appointed deputy representative and that Mr. Lim Sang-beom, Ms. Sohn Sang-Youn, Ms. Yu Jeong A and Major Park Hyun Il have been appointed alternate representatives of the Republic of Korea on the Security Council.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, this letter constitutes adequate provisional credentials.

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General Assembly
Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 43
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Sixty-eighth year

Letter dated 17 May 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I transmit herewith, in two separate annexes, both the recorded infringements of international air traffic regulations and violations of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by Turkey (see annex I), as well as the illegal use of closed ports by Turkish warships during the month of April 2013 (see annex II). I have the honour to draw your attention to the systematic abuses by Turkey of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus by its blatantly violating international law in a way that seriously jeopardizes safety and security in the greater region.

I would be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annexes as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 43, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nicholas **Emiliou**
Permanent Representative

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Annex I to the letter dated 17 May 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Airborne violations

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
1 April 2013	1059-1114	One Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia flight information region (FIR) without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia air control centre (ACC).
	1243-1337	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
4 April 2013	1915-2058	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
5 April 2013	1228-1350	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
6 April 2013	1039-1058	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1301-1319	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
10 April 2013	1054-1114	One B-200 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1514-1532	One B-200 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1310-1417	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
11 April 2013	1417-1518	One Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
12 April 2013	1020-1110	One Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
15 April 2013	1122-1146	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
16 April 2013	1257-1549	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1500-1601	One Cougar Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
18 April 2013	1150-1210	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1713-1734	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
21-22 April 2013	2345-0135	Two S-70 Turkish military helicopters infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
22 April 2013	0016-0400	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
	0702-0723	One S-70 Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	0724-1100	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1130-1220	One S-70 Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1131-1500	One S-70 Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1237-1400	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1520-1625	Four F-16 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1524-1620	Two F-16 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1600-1630	Two F-16 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1601-1625	Two F-16 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1607-1623	Two F-16 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1610-1632	Four F-16 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1611-1628	Two F-16 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1615-1631	Four Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.

13-34233

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
25 April 2013	0706-0758	One Cougar Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
26 April 2013	0022-0045	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	0121-0140	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	0908-0927	One C-160 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	0910-0934	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1408-1510	One Cougar Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1413-1510	One Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
28 April 2013	1645-1710	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
	1652-1714	One C-160 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
30 April 2013	0852-0941	One Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.

Annex II to the letter dated 17 May 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Naval violations

Dates	*Nature of violation*
27 March-12 April 2013	One A-576 Turkish military tugboat violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos.
28 March-2 April 2013	One F-244 Turkish military frigate violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos, while participating in naval exercises of the occupation forces.
30 March-4 April 2013	One P-335 Turkish military missile boat violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos, while participating in naval exercises of the occupation forces.
31 March-4 April 2013	One P-331 Turkish military missile boat violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos, while participating in naval exercises of the occupation forces.
2-5 April 2013	One F-505 Turkish military corvette violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos, while participating in naval exercises of the occupation forces.
5-11 April 2013	One P-331 Turkish military missile boat violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos, while participating in naval exercises of the occupation forces.
5-12 April 2013	One P-335 Turkish military missile boat violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos, while participating in naval exercises of the occupation forces.
7-18 April 2013	One F-505 Turkish military corvette violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos, while participating in naval exercises of the occupation forces.
10-15 April 2013	One F-490 Turkish military frigate violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos, while participating in naval exercises of the occupation forces.

Dates	*Nature of violation*
12-22 April 2013	One P-331 Turkish military missile boat violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos, while participating in naval exercises of the occupation forces.
	One P-335 Turkish military missile boat violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos, while participating in naval exercises of the occupation forces.
18-19 April 2013	One A-1600 Turkish military vessel violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos.
20-23 April 2013	One F-505 Turkish military corvette violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos, while participating in naval exercises of the occupation forces.
23-24 April 2013	One P-338 Turkish military missile boat violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos, while participating in naval exercises of the occupation forces.
23-25 April 2013	One F-501 Turkish military corvette violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos, while participating in naval exercises of the occupation forces.
23-29 April 2013	One F-490 Turkish military frigate violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos, while participating in naval exercises of the occupation forces.
23 April 2013-present	One A-576 Turkish military tugboat violates the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally uses the closed port of Ammochostos.
	One P-334 Turkish military missile boat violates the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally uses the closed port of Ammochostos, while participating in naval exercises of the occupation forces.
25 April 2013-present	One P-338 Turkish military missile boat violates the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally uses the closed port of Ammochostos, while participating in naval exercises of the occupation forces.
27-28 April 2013	One A-1600 Turkish military vessel violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos.

Dates	*Nature of violation*
27 April 2013-present	One F-501 Turkish military corvette violates the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally uses the closed port of Ammochostos, while participating in naval exercises of the occupation forces.
29-30 April 2013	One F-491 Turkish military frigate violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos, while participating in naval exercises of the occupation forces.

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Letter dated 20 May 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the report on the work of the Security Council during the presidency of the Republic of Korea in February 2013 (see annex).

The document was prepared under my responsibility, after consultations with the other members of the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Kim** Sook
Permanent Representative

13-34120 (E) 300513

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Annex to the letter dated 20 May 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the Presidency of the Republic of Korea (February 2013)

Introduction

Under the Presidency of the Republic of Korea in February 2013, the Security Council considered a number of agenda items related to Africa, namely Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan and the Sudan. The Council also discussed issues relating to the Middle East, including Yemen and the Syrian Arab Republic, and non-proliferation (Democratic People's Republic of Korea).

During the month of February, the Council held a high-level open debate on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, which was presided over by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Korea, Kim Sung-hwan. The Council also held a thematic briefing on the cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, in particular the European Union. A private meeting on the implementation of the note by the President of the Council of 26 July 2010 (S/2010/507), the wrap-up session for the month of February, was also held.

The Security Council held 11 public meetings, 2 private meetings and 13 closed consultations. The Council adopted three resolutions and two presidential statements and issued three press statements.

Africa

Burundi

On 13 February, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2090 (2013), extending the mandate of the United Nations Office in Burundi (BNUB) for another year, until 15 February 2014. In the resolution, the Council requested BNUB to focus on and support the Government of Burundi in six areas, one of which dealt with promoting and facilitating dialogue between national actors and supporting mechanisms for broad-based participation in political life, including for the implementation of development strategies and programmes in Burundi and towards ensuring a conducive, free and open environment for the run up to the 2015 elections.

The Permanent Representative of Burundi highlighted the progress his Government had achieved in the areas related to peace and security, democratic process, strengthening good governance and national institutions, the justice sector and human rights and reiterated the request for the gradual transformation of BNUB into a country team to end within 12 months.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 5 February, the Chef de Cabinet, Susana Malcorra, and the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hervé Ladsous, briefed the Council in consultations of the whole. The Chef de Cabinet updated the Council on the efforts of the Secretary-General in negotiations for the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region (see S/2013/131, annex). The Under-Secretary-General briefed the Council on the security situation in North Kivu and the future presence and mandate of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO). He spoke about the option of including an intervention brigade in the MONUSCO mandate. Members of the Council expressed their support for the early adoption of the Framework and stressed the need for its effective implementation. They also exchanged views on ways to enhance the effectiveness of MONUSCO operations.

On 21 February, a private meeting was held with countries contributing troops to MONUSCO. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Head of MONUSCO, Roger Meece, gave a briefing on the security situation in North Kivu, the humanitarian situation of the internally displaced persons and ongoing efforts to enhance the protection of civilians in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

On 22 February, the Special Representative spoke, in a briefing to the Council, on the security situation and current challenges in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He reported on the proposal to establish an intervention brigade under the MONUSCO mandate. He called upon the Council members to consider authorizing such a brigade to strengthen the peacekeeping mission. In consultations, the members exchanged views on the proposals made by the Secretariat and expressed concern about the worsening security and humanitarian situation in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

On 24 February, the Security Council adopted a press statement (SC/10924) welcoming the signing, in Addis Ababa on 24 February 2013, of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region, under the auspices of the guarantors of the Framework, namely the Secretary-General, the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union, the Chairperson of the Southern African Development Community and the Chairperson of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region. The members of the Security Council commended the Secretary-General and the leaders of the region for their work and called on the signatory States of the Framework to implement their commitments fully and in good faith.

Guinea-Bissau

On 5 February, the Council held a briefing and consultations of the whole on the transition progress in Guinea-Bissau. The Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Tayé-Brook Zerihoun, mentioned in his briefing that progress would depend on the sustained political will of national stakeholders and a spirit of compromise and genuine inclusion. Statements were delivered by the Permanent Representative of Brazil, Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, in her capacity as Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, the Permanent

Representative of Côte d'Ivoire, Youssoufou Bamba, on behalf of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and the Permanent Representative of Mozambique, Antonio Gumende, on behalf of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries. In consultations, the members of the Council stressed the need for a swift restoration of the constitutional order through free, fair and transparent elections and expressed their expectation that concerted efforts would continue to be made by the African Union, the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, ECOWAS, the European Union and the United Nations.

On 22 February, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2092 (2013), extending the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) by three months, until 31 May 2013, to provide the Secretary-General with time to assess the situation on the ground and make recommendations, by 30 April, on the Mission's possible realignment. In the resolution, the Council reiterated its demand to the armed forces to submit themselves fully to civilian control and requested the Secretary-General to continue to work through UNIOGBIS, in coordination with other partners, to facilitate the early finalization of a broader political agreement for the restoration of constitutional order. Also in the resolution, the Council expressed its willingness to consider further action, based on additional information, against those involved in drug trafficking and organized crime in Guinea-Bissau in line of paragraphs 6 and 7 of its resolution 2048 (2012).

Mali

On 6 February, the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs briefed the Council on the situation in Mali in closed consultations. He briefed the Council on the political and military progress, and on the road map for transition adopted by the National Assembly of Mali on 29 January. He added that the United Nations remained concerned about allegations of serious human rights abuses and violations and that long-term efforts were needed for an effective national reconciliation. The Council members reaffirmed their support for the military operations conducted by French and African forces and reiterated the importance of the political process to resolve the crisis. Most of the members expressed concern over the serious human rights and humanitarian situation in Mali. Taking note of the donors' conference held in Addis Ababa, the Council members stressed the need for enhanced support by the international community to meet the needs of the Malian people.

On 27 February, the Council held consultations of the whole on Mali. The Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Jeffrey Feltman, provided an update to the Security Council on the political and security situation in the country. On the political process, he welcomed Malians' commitment to holding elections in July and briefed the Council on the ongoing efforts of the United Nations Office in Mali to assist the Malian authorities in the political sphere. He noted the progress made in the security situation thanks to the military operations undertaken by the French and African forces. He also addressed the letter dated 12 February 2013 from the interim President of Mali, Dioncounda Traoré, to the Secretary-General, in which the interim President requested support for the rapid deployment of the African-led International Support Mission in Mali (AFISMA) and noted that this would lead towards the transformation of AFISMA into a United Nations peacekeeping operation in the country (see S/2013/113, annex).

Council members stressed the urgent need for political progress and discussed the possible future deployment of a peacekeeping force in Mali. Following the consultations, on the basis of a consensus reached among the members, the President of the Council, in a letter dated 27 February 2013 (S/2013/129), requested the Secretary-General to include recommendations for the Council's consideration on options for establishing a United Nations peacekeeping operation in his report on Mali due before 20 March, pursuant to resolution 2085 (2012).

Somalia

On 14 February, the Security Council held a briefing on the situation in Somalia. On the basis of the report of the Secretary-General on Somalia (S/2013/69), the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs reported on the security situation and the options for the future United Nations presence in the country. He stressed that progress in Somalia called for concomitant change in support and, in this regard, noted that the Secretary-General's recommendation for a United Nations assistance mission was the best option for the United Nations to provide enhanced support. In addition, he expressed concern over the lack of sustainable and predictable funding for the African Union Mission in Somalia. The Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Somalia, Fawzia Yusuf Adan, also participated in the briefing. She spoke about the efforts by the Government of Somalia to adopt a policy framework with six pillars, including security and peacebuilding, law and good governance reform and economic recovery. She added that getting rid of remnants of Al-Shabaab was a top priority. In that regard, she called for support from the Security Council in lifting the arms embargo to allow the Somali National Armed Forces to assume full responsibility for the security of the country. The briefing was followed by closed consultations, during which the members of the Council welcomed the improvement of the situation and stressed the need for a United Nations political mission, although divergent views were expressed on its modalities.

Sudan/South Sudan

On 7 February, the Council held consultations of the whole on issues related to the Sudan and South Sudan: the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei, the status of implementation of resolution 2046 (2012) and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan.

As part of a 60-day report to the Council, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Edmond Mulet, briefed the Council on the security situation in Abyei. The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sudan and South Sudan, Haile Menkerios, gave a briefing on the latest developments between the Sudan and South Sudan and expressed concern over the lack of progress in implementing the agreements between Sudan and South Sudan of 27 September 2012. The Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan, María Cristina Perceval, gave a briefing on the final report of the Panel of Experts.

The members of the Council underscored the need to quickly establish the Abyei Administration, the Council and the Police Service, as well as the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone and the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism, and to promptly implement all nine agreements signed on 27 September

2012 by the Sudan and South Sudan. Some Council members noted with alarm the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile, stressing the need for humanitarian access and for urgent direct talks between the Government of the Sudan and SPLM-North to resolve political, security and humanitarian concerns. Some members were of the view that humanitarian access was largely contingent on the early launch of direct talks between the Government of the Sudan and SPLM-North and the cessation of hostilities in the two areas. Regarding reported cases of violations of resolution 1591 (2005), some stressed the need to enhance the implementation of sanctions. Others indicated the need for further verification.

On 14 February, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2091 (2013), extending until 17 February 2014 the mandate of the Panel of Experts that monitors the arms embargo and sanctions against those impeding peace in the Sudan. In that resolution, the Council requested the Panel to provide monthly updates to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) on the Sudan and to continue to coordinate its activities with the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Mission in Darfur and with international efforts to promote the political process in Darfur. The Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations, Daffa-Alla Elhag Ali Osman, made a statement reaffirming his Government's commitment to cooperate with the Committee and the Panel of Experts.

On 21 February, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sudan and South Sudan briefed the Council during biweekly consultations held in accordance with resolution 2046 (2012). The security situation along the border, implementation of the agreements of 27 September 2012 and the humanitarian situation in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile were addressed in his briefing. The Council stressed the need for the establishment of the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone and activation of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism and called for direct talks between the Government of the Sudan and SPLM-North.

Middle East

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 26 February, the Council held its monthly meeting on the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. The Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs briefed the Council at a public meeting. The briefing was followed by consultations of the whole.

The Under-Secretary-General underscored that 2013 was a crucial year to push forward the political process. He emphasized the need for decisive and concerted action, including through a revitalized and relevant Quartet. He expressed concern about recent incidents, including the firing of rockets from Gaza earlier that day and the death of Palestinian detainee Arafat Jaradat. With regard to the Syrian Arab Republic, he expressed concern at the heavy toll paid by Syrian civilians and reiterated the Secretary-General's condemnation of reported ballistic missile strikes in Aleppo and of a series of bombings in Damascus. He welcomed the proposal for dialogue made by the president of the Syrian National Coalition, Moaz al-Khatib, and added that stepped-up efforts by the Council could make a substantial difference. On Lebanon, he expressed concern that the ongoing conflict in the

Syrian Arab Republic was increasingly affecting the country's neighbours, including Lebanon.

Following the briefing, the Council held consultations of the whole. On the Palestinian issue, the Members expressed concern about the negative impact that recent incidents might have on the peace process. They stressed the importance of dialogue and confidence-building between the two sides. On the Syrian Arab Republic, many members expressed serious concern about the high number of civilian casualties and human rights violations. The Council reiterated the need to encourage negotiations between the Syrian regime and the opposition with a view to reaching a political solution to the crisis.

Middle East (Syrian Arab Republic)

On 27 February, the Council held consultations of the whole on the Syrian Arab Republic and was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Coordinator, Valerie Amos, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Antonio Guterres, and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Zainab Hawa Bangura. The Under-Secretary-General briefed the Council on the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic. She said that more than half of Syrian public hospitals had been damaged and one in five schools had either been destroyed or was being used as a collective shelter. The High Commissioner spoke about the 936,700 refugees in countries neighbouring the Syrian Arab Republic, saying that they were becoming a social, economic, and security burden to the host countries. He also said that the host countries had been very generous and kept their borders open, but that since their capacities were under severe pressure, the international community should step up efforts to provide them with support. The Special Representative described the serious sexual and gender-based human rights violations committed in the Syrian Arab Republic. She expressed deep concern that civilians were becoming the target of sexual violence by all parties.

Council members expressed concern about the humanitarian and human rights situation and called on the parties in the Syrian Arab Republic to ensure humanitarian access. Underlining the need for a political resolution to the crisis, they stressed that the pledges of the international community to provide timely assistance to the Syrian people needed to be implemented.

Middle East (Yemen)

On 7 February, the Council held a briefing on the results of the Security Council mission to Yemen that had taken place on 27 January. As co-leaders of the mission, the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Mark Lyall Grant, and the Permanent Representative of Morocco, Mohammed Loulichki, briefed the Council on meetings with Yemeni officials regarding preparations for the national dialogue, the humanitarian situation and the implementation of the Gulf Cooperation Council transition initiative. They noted that the President of Yemen, Abdrabuh Mansour Hadi Mansour, had urged the Security Council not to hesitate to act firmly in order to stand up to anyone who might wish to undermine the political process. Shortly after the mission, President Hadi announced that the national dialogue conference would be launched on 18 March.

In subsequent consultations, the Council was briefed by the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Yemen, Jamal Benomar, on the situation in Yemen. While strongly commending the work of President Hadi and the national dialogue preparatory committee, the Special Adviser said that Yemen continued to face many challenges on the road to the elections to be held in February 2014. He stressed the need for the Council to remain attentive to continued attempts to obstruct the transition and willing to consider further measures as needed. The members of the Council noted the progress made in the political transition in the country. Most of the members welcomed the fact that the Council was able to send a message of strong support to the Yemeni people through its mission to Yemen. They also expressed concern about the humanitarian and security challenges.

On 15 February, the Security Council issued a presidential statement on the situation in Yemen (S/PRST/2013/3). The Council welcomed the recent announcement by the President of Yemen on the launch of the national dialogue conference on 18 March, but expressed concern about reports of interference by individuals representing the former regime, the former opposition and others who did not adhere to the guiding principles of the agreement on the implementation mechanism for the transition process in Yemen, including former President Ali Abdullah Saleh and former Vice-President Ali Salim Al-Beidh. The Council also urged all the parties in Yemen to resolve their differences through dialogue and consultation, reject acts of violence to achieve political goals, refrain from provocations and fully abide by resolutions 2014 (2011) and 2051 (2012).

Thematic and other issues

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist attacks

On 1 February, the Security Council issued a statement to the press (SC/10906) condemning in the strongest terms the terrorist attack against the Embassy of the United States of America in Ankara, which resulted in one death and several injuries. The Council expressed its sincere condolences and condemned the new and recurring acts of violence against diplomatic and consular representatives. In addition, it reaffirmed the need to combat by all means terrorist acts that threaten international peace and security.

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations (European Union)

On 13 February, the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton, briefed the Security Council on strengthening cooperation between the European Union and the United Nations to contribute to international peace and security. The High Representative reaffirmed the full support of the European Union for the work of the Council and spoke about European Union cooperation with regional and international partners in Africa, Europe and the Middle East. The members of the Council noted the importance of establishing closer cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, and acknowledged the valuable contribution of the European Union in addressing global threats and challenges, especially in the fields of conflict prevention, crisis management, peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

Non-Proliferation (Democratic People's Republic of Korea)

On 12 February, the Security Council held urgent consultations of the whole to address the situation arising from the nuclear test conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Following the consultations, the Council issued a press statement (SC/10912) strongly condemning the nuclear test, which is a grave violation of Council resolutions 1718 (2006), 1874 (2009) and 2087 (2013) and evidence that there continues to exist a clear threat to international peace and security. The Council recalled its resolution 2087 (2013), which had been unanimously adopted in January, in which it expressed its determination to take significant action in the event of a further nuclear test by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The members said that they would begin work immediately on appropriate measures in a Security Council resolution.

On 21 February, the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006), Sylvie Lucas (Luxembourg), delivered the 90-day report of the Committee to the Council in consultations. The Chair briefed the Council on the Committee's ongoing activities, including the follow-up measures on the implementation of resolution 2087 (2013). Members of the Council condemned the launch made by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which used ballistic missile technology, and the nuclear test, and stressed the need for the Council to take a firm stance. They also called on the Committee to strengthen its role and activities in this regard.

Protection of civilians in armed conflict

On 12 February, the Security Council held an open debate on the protection of civilians in armed conflict and adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2013/2). The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Korea presided over the debate. Among the high-level attendees were the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Rwanda and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan. The Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navanethem Pillay, and the Director for International Law and Cooperation of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Philip Spoerri, briefed the Council.

The Secretary-General said that civilians remained subject to unacceptable threats to life and dignity in zones of conflict worldwide, and urged the Council to take a lead in protecting civilians and pursuing accountability for violations of international humanitarian and human rights law. The High Commissioner for Human Rights stressed that the Council needed to respond urgently to situations where civilian lives were threatened, focusing particularly on the Syrian Arab Republic, Mali, Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and some other countries.

Council members expressed their deep concern about the fact that civilians continued to account for the vast majority of casualties in situations of armed conflict and recognized that States bear the primary responsibility for protecting civilians. They reiterated their demand that all parties to armed conflict comply strictly with their obligations under international humanitarian law, human rights law and refugee law. Furthermore, the members of the Council reaffirmed their strong opposition to impunity for serious violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law and emphasized the responsibility of States to comply

with their relevant obligations to end impunity. In addition to the Council members, 55 Member States and two observer delegations took part in the open debate. Ensuring accountability for violations of international humanitarian law, improving access to humanitarian assistance, enhancing national capacity to protect civilians and taking preventive measures were among the key issues discussed.

In presidential statement S/PRST/2013/2, the Council reiterated its commitment to addressing the impact of armed conflict on civilians and its consequences in post-conflict situations, in particular on women and children. It also recognized that States bear the primary responsibility for protecting civilians and for respecting and ensuring the human rights of all individuals within their territory and subject to their jurisdiction, as provided for by relevant international law. It stressed the need to bolster accountability for violations of international humanitarian and human rights law. Emphasis was put on the need for peacekeeping missions with the mandate to protect civilians to ensure the implementation of that mandate and for mandated protection activities to be given priority in decisions about the use of available capacity and resources, including information and intelligence resources, in the implementation of mandates. The Council requested the Secretary-General to submit his subsequent report by 15 November 2013 and for reports to be submitted every 18 months thereafter, thereby establishing for the first time a regular reporting cycle on the protection of civilians.

Implementation of presidential note S/2010/507

On 28 February, the Council held a private meeting on the implementation of presidential note S/2010/507, the wrap-up session for the month of February. The President of the Council gave a briefing on the activities and agenda of the Council during the month. He added that he hoped that the session offered an opportunity for the Council to reflect on its work and served to enhance the accountability and transparency of the Council to all members of the United Nations.

The members of the Council noted that in February the Council had focused mainly on issues related to Africa and the Middle East. They welcomed the convening of the open debate on the protection of civilians in armed conflict and the adoption of the presidential statement. They also noted the Council's timely response to the nuclear test of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Discussions also focused on the urgent need for the Council to take united and timely steps in certain situations in parts of Africa and the Middle East. In addition to the Council members, 74 Member States and 1 observer delegation attended the meeting.

United Nations S/2013/302

Security Council

Distr.: General
21 May 2013

Original: English

Letter dated 16 May 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to convey the Finnish Government's grave concern over the detention of a Finnish military observer in the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) on 15 May by members of an armed group in the Golan Heights. Finland calls upon the Security Council to exert all efforts to ensure the safety and security of UNTSO personnel and to take necessary steps to avoid similar attacks on UNTSO in the future. In this regard, we also call upon members of the Council to use their influence on all parties to the conflict in Syria.

Finland is fully committed to the important work of UNTSO in order for the mission to be able it to fulfil its mandate.

Furthermore, Finland calls upon the Security Council to exert all efforts to ensure the operative capability of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in order to facilitate the provision of needed protection to UNTSO. When the mandate of UNDOF is renewed in June, the safety and security of both operations should be considered carefully.

In the event that a similar incident involving military observers or peacekeepers occurs in any United Nations peacekeeping mission, Finland asks the Security Council to ensure that a mechanism is in place that guarantees open, active and transparent communication between troop-contributing countries and the Council.

I have the further honour to request that the present letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jarmo **Viinanen**
Permanent Representative

13-34168 (E) 210513

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United Nations S/2013/303

Security Council

Distr.: General
21 May 2013
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 21 May 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I wish to draw your attention to the following information:

Further to our previous letters addressed to you concerning Israel's attacks against Syria's sovereignty and its violation of the Agreement on Disengagement, the most recent of which was our letter of 8 May 2013, we should like to inform you that, at 1.10 a.m. on 21 May 2013, an Israeli vehicle crossed the ceasefire line and proceeded towards the village of Bi'r Ajam, which is located in the liberated area of the Golan within the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic. The presence of armed terrorist groups in that village led the Syrian armed forces to target the above-mentioned Israeli vehicle. Israel also launched two infrared homing missiles from the Tall al-Faras position in the occupied Syrian Golan towards the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic. These two incidents are grave violations of the Charter of the United Nations and the Agreement on Disengagement and an attack against Syrian sovereignty.

The Syrian Arab Republic responded to this violation by exercising the right to self-defence, which is enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. My Government has previously drawn your attention to Israel's violations and its interference in Syria's internal affairs through its provision of logistical support for armed terrorist groups in Syria, including those that are active in the area of separation of forces, and its aggressions against the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic. All of those actions are a violation of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

The Syrian Arab Republic brings these facts to the attention of the Security Council and once again affirms its right to respond immediately to any violation of its sovereignty and territorial integrity in exercise of the right to self-defence. It furthermore expects the Council to put an end to Israel's violations, which contravene the Charter of the United Nations and the Agreement on Disengagement.

I should be grateful if this letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Permanent Representative of the
Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations

13-34266 (E) 220513 220513

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United Nations S/2013/301

Security Council

Distr.: General
22 May 2013

Original: English

France, Luxembourg, Morocco, Pakistan, Rwanda and Togo: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions, statements of its President and press statements on the situation in Guinea-Bissau, in particular resolutions 1876 (2009), 2030 (2011), 2048 (2012) and 2092 (2013),

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on Guinea-Bissau, dated 6 May 2013 (S/2013/262) and the recommendations contained therein, and *welcoming* the activities undertaken by the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS), despite the political and security challenges in the field,

Remaining seriously concerned about the situation in Guinea-Bissau since the military coup of 12 April 2012 and by the fact that despite the progress made due to the continuing efforts of UNIOGBIS and sub-regional, regional and international partners to help resolve the crisis, constitutional order has still not been restored in Guinea-Bissau,

Stressing that the consolidation of peace and stability in Guinea-Bissau can only result from a consensual, inclusive and nationally owned transition process, the restoration of and respect for constitutional order, the reforms in the defence, security and justice sectors, the promotion of the rule of law, the protection of human rights, the promotion of socioeconomic development and the fight against impunity and drug trafficking,

Taking note of the recent important political developments in Guinea-Bissau and of the intention of key stakeholders to revise the transitional political pact including setting technically feasible deadlines for the holding of free, fair and transparent presidential and legislative elections in line with national legislation and relevant international standards; *taking note* also of the signing of the "Agreement of Principles for the return to constitutional normalcy" on 30 April 2013, by all political parties, military, civil society groups and religious leaders by which they decided to extend the transition period until 31 December 2013, with elections to be held in November 2013; to form an all-inclusive transitional Government; and to elect the President of the National Electoral Commission upon receipt of a proposal from the Supreme Court's Council of Judges,

Stressing that all stakeholders in Guinea-Bissau should work to ensure short, medium and long-term stability through clear commitment and genuine inclusive

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political dialogue aimed at creating conditions conducive to the restoration of and respect for constitutional order following credible elections that will be acceptable to all and conducive to finding viable and sustainable solutions to the country's social, economic, political and military problems, which would facilitate the implementation of key reforms and the strengthening of State Institutions,

Deploring the continued lack of effective civilian control and oversight over the defence and security forces, which hampers the political process and effective functioning of State institutions, as a result of collusion between some political actors and the military leadership,

Welcoming the efforts of Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to support the security sector reform (SSR) process in Guinea-Bissau namely through the activities of its Mission in Guinea-Bissau (ECOMIB),

Reiterating serious concern about reports of continuing serious violations and abuses of human rights, as well as the atmosphere of political tension in Guinea-Bissau, and *condemning* restrictions on freedom of expression and freedom of assembly and of the press,

Reiterating its deep concern at the reported increase in drug trafficking in Guinea-Bissau since the military coup of 12 April 2012, and at the threat it poses to stability, *re-emphasizing* the need to tackle the problem of drug trafficking in the countries of origin, transit and final destination through an approach of common and shared responsibility,

Underlining that any lasting solution to instability in Guinea-Bissau should include concrete actions to fight impunity and ensure that those responsible for politically-motivated assassinations and other serious crimes such as drug trafficking-related activities and breaches of constitutional order are brought to justice, including through transitional justice mechanisms,

Reiterating the importance of the continued support of the United Nations and, international, regional, sub-regional, and bilateral partners for the long-term security and development of Guinea-Bissau, particularly towards the restoration of constitutional order, the implementation of security and justice sectors reforms, the fight against drug trafficking, organized crime and human trafficking, as well as the creation of an enabling environment for good governance and inclusive social and economic development,

Commending the important work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in collaboration with the United Nations relevant entities in the fight against drug trafficking and transnational organized crime in Guinea-Bissau and the sub-region, *regretting* the closure of the UNODC in Guinea-Bissau for lack of funding, and *looking forward* to the reinstatement of UNODC at the appropriate time and *encouraging* enhanced cooperation between UNODC and UNIOGBIS,

Stressing the urgent need to maintain in Guinea-Bissau continuous evaluation capacity and to continue to support national, sub-regional, regional and international institutions in charge of the fight against drug trafficking,

Stressing the need for increased coherence, coordination and efficiency among relevant partners to enhance their collective efforts toward combating drug trafficking in Guinea-Bissau, in particular through sharing of information,

Emphasizing the important role of women in prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding, as recognized in resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009), *welcoming* the Mission's work in this regard and *underlining* that a gender perspective must continue to inform the implementation of relevant aspects of the mandate of UNIOGBIS,

Condemning cases of illegal and unauthorized fishing in Guinea-Bissau's territorial waters and exclusive economic zone, which undermines prospects for the country's economic development,

Reaffirming that Guinea-Bissau's partners should continue to actively and closely coordinate their actions to help bring solutions to the country's political, security and development challenges; in this regard, *welcoming* the efforts made by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Guinea-Bissau to help ensure that all international actors involved in addressing the situation in Guinea-Bissau speak with one voice; *looking forward* to receiving the conclusions and recommendations of the joint African Union (AU), (ECOWAS), Community of Portuguese-speaking Language Countries (CPLP), European Union (EU) and United Nations assessment mission that was dispatched to Bissau from 16 to 21 December 2012 to assess the political and security situation in the country; *taking note* of the fact that all international partners have acknowledged the necessity to form an inclusive transitional government and to adopt a consensual road map with the commitment to hold elections by the end of this year,

Stressing that the complex situation in Guinea-Bissau has undermined the smooth implementation of the mandate conferred by the Council to UNIOGBIS, pursuant to resolution 2030 (2011), as well as the activities of the Peacebuilding Commission and *stressing in this regard*, the need to further realign the United Nations system's state-building and peacebuilding activities and the contribution of the Peacebuilding Fund to peace consolidation in Guinea-Bissau,

Taking note of the statement made by the Chair of the Guinea-Bissau Configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission on 9 May 2013, with regard to the Peacebuilding Commission's determination to re-engage with Guinea-Bissau in the future,

Taking note of the conclusions of the United Nations inter-agency Technical Assessment Mission contained in the report of the Secretary-General, as well as the recommendations relating to the mandate of UNIOGBIS,

Reaffirming its full commitment to the consolidation of peace and stability in Guinea-Bissau:

1. *Decides* to extend the mandate of UNIOGBIS for a period of 12 months beginning on 1 June 2013 until 31 May 2014, and to readjust it as recommended by the Secretary-General to perform the following tasks:

(a) Supporting an inclusive political dialogue and national reconciliation process to facilitate the return to constitutional order;

(b) Assisting in creating an environment conducive to the holding of free, fair and transparent elections;

(c) Assisting in strengthening democratic institutions and enhancing the capacity of state organs to function effectively and constitutionally;

(d) Providing strategic and technical advice and support for the establishment of effective and efficient law enforcement and criminal justice and penitentiary systems, capable of maintaining public security and combating impunity while respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(e) Providing strategic and technical advice and support to national authorities and relevant stakeholders, including in coordination with ECOWAS/ECOMIB, in implementing the national security sector reform and rule of law strategies as well as developing civilian and military justice systems that are compliant with international standards;

(f) Assisting national authorities to combat drug trafficking and transnational organized crime, in close cooperation with UNODC;

(g) Undertaking human rights promotion, protection, monitoring and reporting activities;

(h) Mainstreaming a gender perspective into peacebuilding, in line with Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008);

(i) Working with the Peacebuilding Commission in support of Guinea-Bissau's peacebuilding priorities; and

(j) Contributing to the mobilization, harmonization and coordination of international assistance, including for the implementation of the national security sector reform and rule of law strategies, and enhancing cooperation with the AU, the ECOWAS, the CPLP, the EU and other partners in support of the restoration and maintenance of constitutional order and the stabilization of Guinea-Bissau;

2. *Fully supports* the Secretary-General's recommendations related to adjustments to the integrated approach in Guinea-Bissau, the Peacebuilding Commission and Peacebuilding Fund, and of the activities of the United Nations Country Team, as outlined in his report;

3. *Takes note of* ongoing consultations among Guinea-Bissau's stakeholders to resolve the current crisis and *urges* them to enhance their efforts towards the formation of an inclusive government, the adoption of a consensual transitional road map including for elections in 2013, and the adoption of a newly drafted "Regime pact";

4. *Underlines* the importance of free, fair and transparent elections to ensure the restoration of constitutional order by the end of 2013 and *requests* the Secretary-General, through his Special Representative for Guinea-Bissau and UNIOGBIS and the United Nations as a whole, to provide electoral assistance to that end;

5. *Reiterates* its demand to the armed forces to submit themselves fully to civilian control;

6. *Condemns* the violations and abuses of human rights, including political and civil rights, *urges* the Guinea-Bissau authorities to take all necessary measures to protect human rights, put an end to impunity, initiate investigations to identify the perpetrators of such acts and bring them to justice and take action to protect witnesses in order to ensure due process; *urges* them to take steps to mitigate the climate of fear resulting from restrictions on freedom of expression and freedom of assembly;

7. *Welcomes* the joint efforts by international partners, in particular the African Union, the CPLP, ECOWAS, the European Union and the United Nations, to enhance cooperation in support of the restoration of constitutional order in Guinea-Bissau and *encourages* them to continue to work together towards the country's stabilization;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to work through UNIOGBIS, in coordination with other partners, including ECOWAS and CPLP, on the ongoing dialogue process among political parties, to facilitate the achievement of the objectives referred to in paragraph 3 above in view of the restoration of constitutional order;

9. *Encourages* the efforts in support of SSR as a crucial element for long-term stability in Guinea-Bissau and *encourages* coordinated action by all relevant sub-regional, regional, and international partners of Guinea-Bissau in this field in order to obtain expeditious and positive results;

10. *Calls upon* the Guinea-Bissau authorities to review, adopt and implement national legislations and mechanisms to more effectively combat transnational organized crime, in particular drug trafficking and money laundering, and in this context, to provide additional support to the Transnational Crime Unit (TCU) established under the West Africa Coast Initiative (WACI); and *urges* both the civilian and military leadership in Guinea-Bissau and international partners to demonstrate greater commitment to combat drug trafficking;

11. *Encourages* members of the international community to enhance cooperation with Guinea-Bissau, in order to enable it to ensure control of air traffic and surveillance of maritime security within its jurisdiction, in particular to fight drug trafficking and organized crime, as well as illegal fishing in Guinea-Bissau's territorial waters and exclusive economic zone;

12. *Requests* the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to increase efforts to achieve greater coherence, coordination and efficiency among relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programs in Guinea-Bissau to maximize their collective effectiveness toward combating drug trafficking, in particular through provision by these agencies, funds and programs of relevant information to the Special Representative on individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with drug-trafficking that contribute to creating a threat to the peace, stability and security of Guinea-Bissau and the sub-region;

13. *Invites* the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to share all relevant information with the Committee established pursuant to its resolution 2048 (2012), particularly names of individuals who meet the criteria set forth in paragraph 6 and elaborated by paragraph 7 of resolution 2048 (2012);

14. *Stresses* the challenges posed by the fight against drug trafficking in the search of solutions to the overall political and economic crisis in Guinea-Bissau, and *requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the relevant capacity within UNIOGBIS, by providing an anti-drug component, including appropriate expertise;

15. *Encourages* international bilateral and multilateral partners to continue their technical support to Guinea-Bissau in strengthening efforts to tackle transnational organized crime including illicit activities, such as money-laundering and drug trafficking, *calls upon* them to increase their support to WACI and the

TCU to fight transnational organized crime and drug trafficking which threaten security and stability in Guinea-Bissau and in the sub-region and further *encourages* them to contribute to support UNODC presence in Guinea-Bissau and to the UNIOGBIS Trust Fund for immediate, medium and longer-term priorities, including for elections and post-election reforms;

16. *Emphasizes* the importance of the organization of an international pledging conference on the recovery of Guinea-Bissau after the holding of free, fair and transparent elections;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Council regular reports, every 180 days, on the implementation of this resolution and to continue to provide concurrent report on the implementation of resolution 2048 (2012) every 90 days restarting with the adoption of this resolution;

18. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

United Nations S/2013/305

Security Council

Distr.: General
21 May 2013

Original: English

Letter dated 3 May 2013 from the President of the Governing Council of the United Nations Compensation Commission addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am pleased to provide my report as the President of the Governing Council of the United Nations Compensation Commission on the results of the Governing Council's seventy-fifth session, which was held in Geneva from 30 April to 2 May 2013. The full text of the conclusions adopted by the Governing Council and additional documentation is attached.* I would however like to highlight a few of the issues discussed during the session.

During the opening plenary meeting, delegations from the Governments of Kuwait and Iraq, including a delegation from the Committee of Financial Experts of Iraq, addressed the Council. The participating Governments under the Follow-up Programme for Environmental Awards, Jordan, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, also addressed the Council regarding their progress towards achieving the systems and controls required under decision 269 of the Governing Council (S/AC.26/Dec.269 (2011)).

With respect to the Follow-up Programme, the Governing Council adopted decision 270 (S/AC.26/Dec.270 (2013)) concerning the fulfilment of the mandate of the Programme in the case of Saudi Arabia and the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Council authorized the secretariat, upon receipt of the signed assurances from Saudi Arabia as required under decision 269 (S/AC.26/Dec.269 (2011)), to release all withheld funds to Saudi Arabia. With respect to the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Council determined that the country had now met the requirements of decision 258 with respect to its two projects under that decision. However, in the light of the sanctions imposed on the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Council directed the secretariat to obtain advice from the Legal Liaison Office of the United Nations Office at Geneva as to whether there are any impediments under applicable laws with regard to the release of funds currently withheld by the Commission and await the response to its request for advice from the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006).

The Governing Council noted that Jordan and Kuwait have made considerable progress since the seventy-fourth session and found that both Governments have now materially met the requirements of decision 269. The Council further noted its expectation that it will be ready to declare that the mandate of the Programme has been fulfilled in the case of Jordan and Kuwait at or before the next Council session,

* Not included in the present document.

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subject to Jordan and Kuwait satisfactorily addressing certain issues. The Council encouraged Jordan and Kuwait to commence the process of constituting their advisory panels with a view to ensuring that they will become fully functional following the Governing Council's determination that the mandate under the Programme has been fulfilled. As the members of those panels are to provide advisory assistance and support to the respective Governments in carrying out their obligations under the relevant Governing Council decisions and the assurances, the Council emphasized the need to ensure that the composition of the panels would be consistent with the purpose of providing independent technical and financial advice relevant to the projects.

Under decision 258 with respect to Jordan and Kuwait, the Working Group took note of information notes and briefings by the secretariat and the biannual reports from the national focal points and independent reviewers. Regarding Jordan and Kuwait, the Council made recommendations, approved phasing plans, and authorized the release of funds from the respective special accounts as appropriate. With respect to Jordan, the Council approved the modified community action plan, noting that it met the objectives of the award as set out in the report of the F4 Panel of Commissioners.

In its consideration of the issues relating to the Compensation Fund, the Governing Council took note of the statement made by the delegation of Kuwait at the opening plenary meeting reaffirming its commitment to the consultations between Kuwait and Iraq under the auspices of the Commission on the outstanding balance of $11.2 billion that remains owing to Kuwait. The Council requested the secretariat to continue its efforts to facilitate the consultations and keep the Council advised of any developments. With regard to the issue of the arrangements for ensuring that deposits are made into the Compensation Fund, the Council noted its continued satisfaction with the transfer of 5 per cent of Iraq's oil revenues and the equivalent of 5 per cent of the value of non-monetary payments to the Compensation Fund and further noted Iraq's commitment to complying with Security Council resolutions.

The Governing Council noted that since the last session in November 2012, two payments have been made to Kuwait totalling approximately $2.43 billion and that, based on current levels of income to the Fund and recent projections, the Commission remains on track to pay the remaining outstanding claim in full as early as the spring of 2015. The category E claim, submitted by the Government of Kuwait on behalf of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, was awarded $14.7 billion for oil production and sales losses as a result of damages to Kuwait's oil field assets and represents the largest award by the Governing Council. The next payment is scheduled to be made on 25 July 2013.

The Governing Council also considered issues relating to the orderly wind-down of the Follow-up Programme and future liquidation-related activities of the Commission. With the Commission nearing the conclusion of its mandate, this issue will assume greater prominence in the Council's deliberations.

The next session of the Governing Council will be held from 19 to 21 November 2013.

(*Signed*) Peter **Woolcott**
President of the Governing Council

United Nations S/2013/306

Security Council

Distr.: General
21 May 2013
English
Original: French

Letter dated 21 May 2013 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 14 May 2013 from Mr. Ramtane Lamamra, Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union (see annex), forwarding a communiqué on the Central African Republic adopted by the African Union Peace and Security Council at its 375th meeting held on 10 May 2013.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

13-34279 (E) 230513 240513

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Annex

[Original: English]

Letter dated 14 May 2013 from the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, I am forwarding herewith the communiqué on the situation in the Central African Republic adopted by the African Union Peace and Security Council at its 375th meeting, held on 10 May 2013 (see enclosure).

In this communiqué, the Peace and Security Council reiterated its appeal to the Security Council, as contained in its previous communiqués and press statements, to fully support the African-led efforts. In particular, the Council requested the Security Council to seize the opportunity of its meeting on the situation in the Central African Republic, scheduled on 15 May 2013, to support the measures envisaged, in order to restore security in the Central African Republic and guarantee the protection of civilians, as well as the execution of all the necessary tasks for the restoration of constitutional order.

Accordingly, I would be most grateful if this communiqué could be circulated to the Security Council members as a document, for their information and action, as may be appropriate.

(*Signed*) Ramtane **Lamamra**
Commissioner for Peace and Security

Enclosure

[Original: English and French]

Communiqué

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union, at its 375th meeting, held on 10 May 2013, adopted the following decision on the situation in the Central African Republic:

Council,

1. **Takes note** of the briefing made by the Commissioner for Peace and Security on the situation in the Central African Republic, as well as of the statements made by the representatives of South Africa, Rwanda, France, the United Nations and the United States of America;

2. **Reiterates** its previous communiqués and press statements on the Central African Republic, and **welcomes** the conclusions of the 4th Extraordinary Summit of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), held in N'Djamena, on 18 April 2013. Council also welcomes the follow-up by the Commission and the efforts made to facilitate a coordinated international response to the situation in the Central African Republic;

3. **Commends** the convening in Brazzaville, on 3 May 2013, under the auspices of the African Union Commission and ECCAS, of the inaugural meeting of the International Contact Group on the Central African Republic. Council **encourages** President Denis Sassou Nguesso of the Republic of the Congo, Chair of the ECCAS Follow-up Committee on the Central African Republic, to pursue his efforts towards the implementation of the transition road map;

4. **Reiterates its grave concern** about the precarious security and humanitarian situation, especially the repeated attacks against the civilian population and the risk that this situation poses to the cohesion of the people of the Central African Republic and their unity, as well as to the long-term stability of the country. Council **requests** the acceleration of the implementation of the measures envisaged for the cantonment of the Seleka elements, as well as the reconstitution of a core police and gendarmerie force to maintain law and order and contribute to the protection of civilians;

5. **Welcomes** the dispatch of a Military Assessment Mission, led by the African Union and including representatives of ECCAS, the United Nations and the International Organization of La Francophonie, in order to assess MICOPAX needs, in accordance with the request made by the ECCAS Heads of State and Government at their 4th Extraordinary Summit. Council **looks forward** to the recommendations that would be submitted to it by the Commission;

6. **Requests** the Commission to consult with all concerned parties on the possibility for the contingent of the Regional Cooperation Initiative for the Elimination of the Lord's Resistance Army, stationed in the eastern part of the Central African Republic, contributing to the protection of the civilian population in its area of operations and within its capacities. Council **also urges** the other member States in a position to do so to support, through troop contributions, in-kind and financial resources, MICOPAX efforts. Council **takes note** of the appeal made on

8 May 2013 by the Prime Minister of the Government of National Unity of the Transition, calling upon the Government of the French Republic to extend the mandate of its military contingent deployed in Bangui to cover tasks relating to the maintenance of law and order and security in the capital and its suburbs, **supports** the said appeal, and **requests** the Commission to ensure the necessary follow-up for the operationalization of the envisaged security arrangements as soon as possible;

7. **Reiterates its appeal** to the United Nations Security Council, as contained in its previous communiqués and press statements, to fully support the African-led efforts. In particular, Council **requests** the Security Council to seize the opportunity of its meeting on the situation in the Central African Republic, scheduled on 15 May 2013, to support the above-mentioned measures, in order to restore security in the Central African Republic and guarantee the protection of civilians, as well as the execution of all the necessary tasks for the restoration of constitutional order;

8. **Decides** to remain actively seized of the matter.